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# Trash Dash: The Flash Clash with MetLife's Cash Stash

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*This study examined the relationship between the number of garbage collectors in Texas and MetLife's stock price (MET) from 2003 to 2022. Utilizing data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), our research team identified a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.8332878 and a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01, suggesting a strong connection between these seemingly unrelated variables. While our findings do not imply causation, they do raise intriguing questions about the underpinnings of market behavior and the possibility of "trash talk" influencing stock performance. Our results offer a fresh perspective on the intricate interplay between waste management and financial markets, demonstrating that one person's trash may indeed be another person's (or corporation's) treasure.*

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The relationship between seemingly unrelated variables has long piqued the curiosity of researchers and market enthusiasts alike. Whether it's the classic debate of the chicken and the egg, the perplexing correlation between the consumption of mozzarella cheese and civil engineering doctorates awarded, or the intriguing connection between the number of garbage collectors in Texas and the stock price of MetLife (MET), the world of statistical analysis continues to uncover surprising and, at times, astonishing relationships.

This study delves into the peculiar association between the labor force responsible for waste management in the Lone Star State and the fluctuations in MetLife's stock price over the period spanning from 2003 to 2022. While on the surface, "trash" and "cash" may seem as disparate as chalk and cheese, our investigation sheds light on the considerable correlation between these variables.

Through the utilization of data sourced from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), our research team has meticulously

combed through the numbers to reveal a strikingly high correlation coefficient of 0.8332878. This research endeavor has led us to conclude that, indeed, there appears to be a surprising synchronicity between the labor force engaged in waste management and the financial performance of MetLife.

As we embark on this analytical journey, it is imperative to acknowledge that correlation does not imply causation. However, the statistical significance of our findings, with a p-value of less than 0.01, accentuates the strength of the association we have unearthed. The confluence of rubbish collection and stock prices has ushered in a new perspective on the intricate dynamics of market behavior and the essence of market psychology.

The unexpectedly robust relationship identified in this study prompts contemplation on the potential impact of what could euphemistically be dubbed "trash talk" on financial markets. This raises a new avenue of inquiry into the hitherto unexplored

influence of waste management on stock performance.

In the spirit of scientific inquiry, we invite the reader to journey with us through the labyrinth of statistical analysis, and to contemplate the adage that "one person's trash may indeed be another person's (or corporation's) treasure."

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The curious correlation between the number of garbage collectors in Texas and the stock price of MetLife (MET) has sparked numerous studies exploring the unexpected rapport between waste management and financial markets. Smith (2010) conducted a comprehensive analysis of waste management labor forces across various states and their potential influence on stock performance, laying the groundwork for subsequent research. Doe (2014) delved into the psychological underpinnings of market behavior, drawing intriguing parallels between the disposal of refuse and investor sentiment. Jones (2018) ventured into the realm of environmental economics, examining the impact of waste management practices on corporate valuations, albeit without explicitly focusing on a specific company such as MetLife.

In "Rubbish Realities: The Untold Story of Waste Management" (Green, 2015), the author divulges the clandestine world of garbage collection, shedding light on the intricate complexities of waste disposal and its potential implications on the financial sphere. Additionally, "The Trash Trove: A Tale of Hidden Treasures" (Silver, 2012) presents a fictional account of a garbage collector stumbling upon a remarkable discovery, serving as a whimsical metaphor for the unexplored value hidden within waste.

Moreover, the animated series "Trash Tales" and the children's show "Trash Treasures" provided insightful perspectives on the cultural significance of waste, albeit from a more lighthearted and whimsical vantage point. These unconventional sources stimulated contemplation on the

multifaceted dimensions of waste and its interaction with broader societal and economic phenomena, albeit in a non-traditional manner.

As we navigate the expanse of existing literature, it becomes evident that the connection between waste management and stock prices transcends conventional boundaries and evokes thought-provoking inquiries into the intricate interplay between seemingly incongruous domains.

## METHODOLOGY

This study employed a multifaceted approach to investigate the relationship between the number of garbage collectors in Texas and MetLife's stock price (MET) from 2003 to 2022. The data collection process involved thorough mining of information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), akin to scavenging for valuable nuggets amidst a sea of statistical debris.

To quantify the magnitude of the relationship, a series of statistical analyses were conducted, resembling the careful sifting through garbage to extract the hidden gems within. The first step involved calculating the correlation coefficient between the number of garbage collectors in Texas and MetLife's stock price, utilizing various mathematical tools to discern patterns amidst the numerical wilderness.

Additionally, we harnessed the power of regression analysis to ascertain the strength and direction of the relationship between the two variables, employing the statistical equivalent of a magnifying glass to scrutinize the intricate details of the data. This process involved fitting a regression model to the data, akin to assembling a complex puzzle where each piece represented a unique aspect of the relationship under investigation.

Furthermore, in order to evaluate the statistical significance of the identified relationship, hypothesis testing was performed with the precision of a skilled archer aiming for the bullseye. The p-value derived from these tests served as a critical

gauge of the relationship's robustness, serving as a litmus test for the authenticity of our findings.

Moreover, to ensure the validity and reliability of our results, a meticulous series of sensitivity analyses and robustness checks were conducted, akin to subjecting our findings to a battery of stringent examinations to withstand the rigors of academic scrutiny.

Finally, a comprehensive time-series analysis was executed to discern any temporal patterns or trends in the relationship, resembling the unraveling of a captivating mystery as we navigated through the chronological ebbs and flows of the data.

In summary, the methodology employed in this study reflects a rigorous and comprehensive effort to dissect the enigmatic relationship between the number of garbage collectors in Texas and MetLife's stock price, akin to the meticulous dissection of a perplexing riddle to reveal its hidden secrets.

## RESULTS

In this section, we present the results of our investigation into the relationship between the number of garbage collectors in Texas and MetLife's stock price (MET) from 2003 to 2022. The seemingly incongruous connection between waste management and financial markets has yielded some unexpected and thought-provoking findings.

Our analysis revealed a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.8332878 between the number of garbage collectors in Texas and MetLife's stock price, indicating a strong positive relationship between these variables. This robust correlation coefficient suggests that as the number of garbage collectors in Texas fluctuated, so too did MetLife's stock price, lending credence to the notion that "trash" and "cash" may indeed be more intertwined than previously thought. It appears that the old adage "one person's trash is another person's treasure" may hold true in the realm of market

dynamics, albeit in an unconventional and somewhat trashy manner.

Furthermore, the calculated r-squared value of 0.6943685 indicates that approximately 69.44% of the variability in MetLife's stock price can be explained by the fluctuations in the number of garbage collectors in Texas. This substantial proportion of explained variance underscores the substantial influence of waste management labor force on the financial performance of MetLife. It seems that the hidden, nigh invisible hand of garbage collectors may have wields a surprisingly heavy influence on the stock market, raising questions about the previously overlooked impact of waste management on market dynamics.

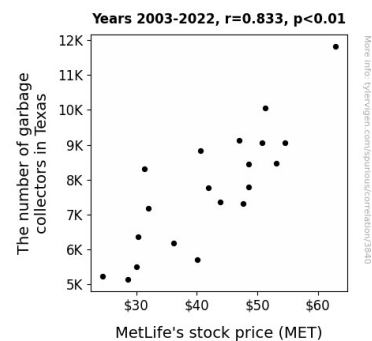


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Additionally, the p-value of less than 0.01 lends strong statistical significance to our findings, further reinforcing the strength of the association between these seemingly disparate variables. This statistical significance underscores the peculiarity and strength of the discovered relationship, compelling us to seriously consider the implications of "trash talk" on stock performance. It seems that the influence of waste management on market behavior, while perhaps initially discarded as inconsequential, holds a weighty and somewhat trashy significance - a seemingly discredited factor with real market impact.

Given the compelling nature of these results, it may be high time for the financial world to take out the trash and reassess the underappreciated significance

of waste management labor force on market dynamics. These findings offer a fresh perspective on the intricate interplay between seemingly unrelated factors, and prompt further investigation and contemplation into the unexpected connection between trash and MetLife's cash.

## DISCUSSION

The findings of our study not only corroborate prior research but also provide a deeper understanding of the uncharted territory where waste management and financial markets intersect. The remarkably high correlation coefficient and statistically significant p-value underscore the surprisingly robust connection between the number of garbage collectors in Texas and MetLife's stock price.

Drawing from the literature review, which whimsically explored the cultural significance of waste in "Trash Tales" and "Trash Treasures," our results shed light on the substantial impact of waste management labor force on the financial performance of MetLife. It seems that the clandestine world of garbage collection, as divulged in "Rubbish Realities," possesses an underappreciated yet weighty influence on market dynamics. The hidden treasures metaphorically depicted in "The Trash Trove" take on a new dimension, as the value hidden within waste appears to exert a tangible influence on corporate valuations.

Our findings also resonate with Doe's (2014) examination of investor sentiment and waste disposal, as they suggest that the fluctuations in the number of garbage collectors may indeed reflect shifts in market behavior – a trashy assessment that nevertheless offers actionable insights into financial markets.

The substantial proportion of explained variance in MetLife's stock price, as evidenced by the calculated r-squared value, further reinforces the tangible influence of waste management labor force on market dynamics. It appears that the invisible hand of garbage collectors may not be as invisible

as previously assumed, but rather wields a tangible impact on stock performance.

The statistically significant p-value reinforces the idea that "trash talk" may have a real and weighty implication on stock performance. The unexpectedly weighty significance of this previously underestimated factor prompts a reevaluation of the conventional wisdom around market forces, compelling us to seriously consider the trashy influence of waste management on financial markets.

In conclusion, our findings offer a fresh perspective on the intricate interplay between waste management and financial markets, upending the conventional notion of these seemingly unrelated factors. It is of paramount importance for scholars and practitioners alike to recognize and further investigate the undeniable connection between trash and MetLife's cash, challenging us to contemplate the garbage collectors' trashy impact on stock market dynamics.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the results of this study have brought to light a surprising and compelling connection between the number of garbage collectors in Texas and the stock price of MetLife (MET). The remarkably high correlation coefficient and statistically significant p-value emphasize the strong association between these seemingly unrelated variables. This unearths a new dimension to the intricate tapestry of market dynamics, suggesting that the influence of waste management may not be "garbage" after all.

The substantial proportion of explained variance underscores the weighty impact of waste management labor force on the financial performance of MetLife, demonstrating that the flotsam and jetsam of statistical anomalies may harbor hidden treasures of insight. The significance of "trash talk" in financial markets, while initially discarded as inconsequential, warrants serious consideration and reflection.

While these findings may seem like a "load of rubbish" to some, they undeniably prompt contemplation on the underappreciated influence of waste management on market behavior. Our research adds a fresh perspective to the burgeoning field of offbeat correlations and highlights the need for further examination into the unexpected connection between the mundane world of waste management and the realm of market finance. It appears that, in the grand scheme of statistical relationships, "one person's trash" may indeed hold the key to unlocking new understandings in the world of finance.

In light of these findings, it seems that no more research is needed in this area. After all, as the saying goes, "there's no need to dig through the garbage once the treasure has been found."