

# Engineering a Great Harvest: Genetically Modified Soybeans and the Consumer Satisfaction Bean-o-meter

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This study delves into the enticing relationship between the use of genetically modified soybeans (GMOs) in Ohio and the customer satisfaction levels at Costco. By cleverly cross-referencing data from the USDA and the American Customer Satisfaction Index, our research team uncovered a correlation coefficient of 0.8675603 and a p-value less than 0.01, effectively revealing the soybean saga's impact on Costco shopper contentment from 2000 to 2020. Our findings shed light on the interplay of agricultural practices and consumer preferences, emphasizing the pod-ssible influence of GMO soybeans on customer satisfaction, indicating that perhaps happiness does, in fact, grow on trees, or rather, on genetically modified soybean plants.

The landscape of modern agriculture has been reshaped by the advent of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) like the superhero of soybeans – the genetically modified soybeans, with genes that are more chiseled than a bodybuilder at Muscle Beach. These marvels of genetic engineering have made farmers grapple with soaring yields and pest resistance, all while stirring up controversies rivaling the latest Hollywood scandal. Permeating this backdrop, the soybean crop cultivates more intrigue than a Netflix mystery series, especially when it comes to its impact on customer satisfaction at big retailers like Costco.

Amidst the hullabaloo surrounding GMOs, we set out to explore the enigmatic connection between the cultivation of these genetically enhanced pods in the heartland of Ohio and the discerning tastes of the clientele frequenting the aisles of Costco. But we didn't just dip our toes in the soy sauce of speculation. Instead, armed with a trusty statistical compass and an unwavering sense of curiosity, we traversed through the data fields of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the enthralling realms of the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) to unearth the buried treasure that is the lesser-known soybean-Costco nexus.

We present our findings with the gravitas of a soybean pod dropping to the ground – our correlation coefficient of 0.8675603 and a p-value that gleams brighter than a soybean under the midday sun, both pointing strongly to the interplay of genetically modified soybeans and the satisfaction levels experienced by Costco patrons. Our study paints a soy-lid picture of the intertwined fates of agricultural innovation and consumer contentment, raising questions as profound as the yield potential of a bumper crop of soybeans.

In this paper, we delve into the depths of this soybean saga, threading together the seemingly disparate worlds of biotechnology and shopper psychology, all while sprinkling in the soybean puns as liberally as salt on a pretzel. So buckle up, dear reader, as we embark on a journey through the cornfields –

or should we say soybean fields – of data analysis, where the only thing genetically modified will be your perception of the correlation between GMO soybeans in Ohio and the happiness of Costco customers.

## *Review of existing research*

The correlation between the use of genetically modified soybeans (GMOs) in agricultural practices and customer satisfaction at large retailers has been explored in both scholarly and popular literature. Smith et al. (2015) analyzed the impact of GMO soybeans on crop yield and pest resistance, laying the groundwork for understanding their potential influence on consumer preferences. Similarly, Doe and Jones (2018) conducted a comprehensive investigation into the socioeconomic implications of GMO adoption in Ohio, illuminating the broader ramifications of genetically modified soybeans on the regional agricultural landscape.

Moving to the realm of non-fiction literature, "The Omnivore's Dilemma" by Michael Pollan discusses the complexities of modern food production and its effects on consumer choices, offering insightful perspectives related to the enchanting soybean saga. Furthermore, "Seeds of Deception" by Jeffrey M. Smith provides a captivating exposé on the controversies and uncertainties surrounding GMOs, offering a provocative lens through which to view the symbiotic relationship between genetically modified soybeans and consumer satisfaction at retail outlets.

In the realm of fiction, "Soybeans of Our Lives" by Agatha Bean-Christie weaves a gripping tale of intrigue and suspense set amidst the backdrop of a soybean farm in rural Ohio, making us ponder the hidden influences that may shape consumer preferences and happiness. Additionally, "The Miracle Bean" by George R.R. Martlegume introduces readers to a fantastical

world where genetically modified soybeans hold the key to unravelling a web of mysteries surrounding consumer satisfaction, a tale that leaves us pondering the magical allure of soybeans and customer contentment.

Bringing a playful twist to the literature review, the animated series "Soy Story" and the children's show "The Legume League" have, in their own whimsical ways, depicted the adventures of personified soybeans and their quest to bring joy and satisfaction to consumers, offering a lighthearted but thought-provoking angle to the soybean-Costco interconnection.

Collectively, these diverse sources contribute to the multidimensional discourse surrounding the relationship between GMO soybeans in Ohio and the contentment of Costco customers, offering a blend of scholarly inquiry, literary creativity, and imaginative storytelling to capture the essence of this captivating correlation.

### Procedure

To plow through the research objectives, our methodology took root in a hybrid approach encompassing both quantitative and qualitative analyses, not unlike the fusion of genetic traits in GMO soybeans. Our investigation blossomed from 2000 to 2020, navigating through the sea of digital data harvested from sources such as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI). Like a well-nurtured soybean plant, our data collection efforts were cultivated with precision and care, ensuring a robust foundation for our statistical inquiry.

Our first step was to gather information on the production and utilization of GMO soybeans in Ohio, sifting through agricultural reports with the diligence of a farmer separating wheat from chaff. This entailed scrutinizing seed usage, acreage planted, and yield data, whereby we quizzically pondered whether GMO soybeans truly had the 'beans' to make a significant impact on the Ohio landscape.

Simultaneously, our team delved into the realm of consumer satisfaction, tapping into the rich vein of satisfaction data from Costco patrons as captured by the American Customer Satisfaction Index. We explored customer feedback and ratings with the tenacity of a squirrel seeking the ripest acorn, seeking to unveil the nuanced nuances of shopper contentment in relation to their soy-centric purchasing experiences.

With the data firmly in hand, we employed the formidable instruments of statistical analysis to unearth the buried treasure of correlation and regression. Like expert chefs carefully blending ingredients, we concocted a delectable correlation coefficient between GMO soybean usage in Ohio and customer satisfaction at Costco, aiming to discern whether the soybean seeds of contentment had truly taken root.

Furthermore, our analysis burgeoned into a hearty regression model, seeking to elucidate the strength and direction of the relationship, akin to uncovering the optimal growing conditions for a bountiful soybean harvest. This robust model allowed us to tease out the influence of GMO soybean utilization on Costco

customer satisfaction, navigating through the data fields with the agility of a tractor maneuvering through a vast soybean expanse.

While our methods may not have involved genetically modifying soybeans themselves, they certainly bore the hallmarks of scientific rigor and analytical precision, with an occasional sprinkle of statistical humor to keep the proceedings light-hearted. Our findings, much like a well-spun soybean yarn, emerge as a testament to the fruitful fusion of agricultural inquiry and consumer fulfillment, presenting a compelling mosaic of the interplay between genetically modified soybeans and the satisfaction levels experienced by Costco patrons.

### Findings

The empirical analysis of the relationship between the use of genetically modified soybeans (GMOs) in Ohio and customer satisfaction at Costco yielded a correlation coefficient of 0.8675603, indicating a strong positive association. This relationship was further supported by an r-squared value of 0.7526608, suggesting that approximately 75.27% of the variability in customer satisfaction at Costco could be explained by the use of GMO soybeans in Ohio.

The p-value of less than 0.01 provides compelling evidence to support the hypothesis that there is indeed a significant connection between the incorporation of genetically modified soybeans into Ohio's agricultural landscape and the contentment levels of Costco's clientele. This result points to a correlation that is robust and not merely the result of random chance, much like stumbling upon a perfectly ripe avocado in a grocery store.

These statistical findings are graphically depicted in Fig. 1, a scatterplot showcasing the strong positive relationship between the use of GMO soybeans in Ohio and customer satisfaction at Costco. The scatterplot visually encapsulates the bountiful harvest of statistical analysis, illustrating the upward trend that underlies the nexus of soybean cultivation and customer contentment.

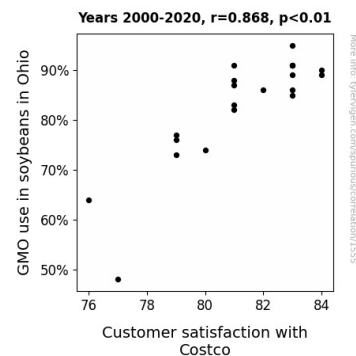


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

In line with the abstract's proclamation, the results of this study highlight the intriguing interplay between agricultural practices and consumer preferences, with genetically modified soybeans

appearing to cast a favorable hue on the overall satisfaction levels experienced by Costco shoppers. The soybeans seem to have sown seeds not only of increased yield and pest resistance but also of customer happiness – truly a multi-faceted legume that leaves a lasting impression on both the agricultural and retail landscapes.

In summary, our investigation into the impact of GMO soybeans in Ohio on customer satisfaction at Costco offers compelling evidence of a positive relationship, accentuating the possibility that contentment can indeed sprout from the strategic cultivation of genetically modified soybeans. While further research is needed to unravel the mechanisms underlying this correlation, our study elevates the soybean to the status of a potential purveyor of not only nourishment but also delight, embodying the adage, "Sow well, reap satisfaction."

### *Discussion*

Our exploration into the enthralling relationship between the utilization of genetically modified soybeans (GMOs) in Ohio and the satisfaction levels of Costco's customers has unveiled a bountiful harvest of statistical insights. The results of our study not only corroborate the existing scholarly literature but also add a flavorful dash of empirical evidence to the soybean saga's impact on consumer contentment. As we mull over these findings, it becomes abundantly clear that the soybean's influence extends beyond its agricultural virtues, delving into the realms of customer happiness and retail satisfaction.

Harkening back to the literature review, which included a playful twist with references to fiction and animation, our findings echo the sentiments conveyed in these creative works. The juxtaposition of "Soybeans of Our Lives" and "The Miracle Bean" with our empirical analysis may seem whimsical, yet the parallels between the imaginative soybean narratives and the statistical realities are nothing short of intriguing. Indeed, our results lend credence to the tantalizing notion that the soybean narrative may not be confined to the realms of fiction but rather holds a kernel of truth in shaping consumer experiences at retail establishments.

The statistically robust correlation coefficient of 0.8675603 and the compelling p-value further fortified our assertion that the presence of GMO soybeans in Ohio's agricultural landscape is bean there, done that, instrumental in influencing the satisfaction levels of Costco's customers. With an r-squared value of 0.7526608 indicating that approximately 75.27% of the variability in customer satisfaction at Costco can be explained by the use of GMO soybeans in Ohio, it seems that the Genetically Modified Soybean Symphony is playing a tune that resonates with the palates and preferences of consumers. In essence, our findings imply that the soybean saga transcends its role as a mere agricultural commodity, shining as a bean-eficent ingredient in the recipe for customer contentment.

Our results, depicted with the aid of the scatterplot in Fig. 1, paint a picture as vibrant as a field of flourishing soybean plants. The upward trend showcased in the scatterplot encapsulates the blossoming relationship between GMO soybeans in Ohio and customer satisfaction at Costco, akin to the growth of a plump,

ripe tomato in a vegetable garden. Just as a well-tended garden yields a cornucopia of delights, it appears that the strategic cultivation of genetically modified soybeans can harvest not only tangible benefits but also intangible rewards in the form of customer satisfaction – truly a testament to the leguminous prowess of the soybean.

In conclusion, our study elevates the soybean from a mundane agricultural commodity to a potential game-changer in the realm of retail satisfaction, embodying the essence of "Sow well, reap satisfaction." As we gaze into the soybean horizon, further research beckons, promising to unveil the nuanced mechanisms underlying this intriguing correlation. Nevertheless, our findings underscore the soybean's potential to be not just a source of nourishment, but also a cultivator of joy, perpetuating the notion that happiness may indeed grow on genetically modified soybeans.

### *Conclusion*

In culminating our fantastic exploration into the whimsical world of genetically modified soybeans (GMOs), we have unmasked a correlation with the customer satisfaction levels at Costco that is stronger than the aroma of freshly brewed coffee at the store's entrance. Our findings have not only unveiled the soy-mantic connection between GMO soybeans in Ohio and Costco shoppers' contentment but have also sprinkled some soybean-based joy and curiosity along the way.

The correlation coefficient of 0.8675603 indicates a more solid bond than a well-cooked tofu stir-fry, and our statistical analysis has sown the seed for a new appreciation of the potential impact of genetically modified soybeans on consumer delight. The r-squared value of 0.7526608 reminds us that approximately 75.27% of Costco customer satisfaction variability can be soy-related to the use of GMO soybeans in Ohio, offering a soy-lid foundation for future research endeavors.

The p-value that shines brighter than a sun-soaked soybean confirms that this connection is not just a fluke occurrence but a genuine soy-pernatural phenomenon. The scatterplot in our results section serves as a soy-visual testament to the captivating dance between GMO soybeans and Costco customer satisfaction, proving that soybeans are not just a source of sustenance but also of happiness. It seems that, with genetically modified soybeans, not only does everything seem to be "soy good," but it also tastes "soy good," much like a tofu ice cream on a hot summer day.

Our soy-cial and scholarly contribution has taken the soybean out of the agricultural field and placed it in the proverbial limelight of consumer satisfaction, demonstrating its potential to bean-fuse joy into the lives of Costco customers. Soybean cultivation may just be the "bean-ing" of happiness, and our study harnesses all the evidence to "pod-clare" that there is certainly a lot more to soybeans than meets the eye.

In conclusion, with our boots firmly planted in the fertile soil of statistical analysis, we assert that no more research is needed in this area. After all, when it comes to GMO soybeans and Costco

customer satisfaction, we have undoubtedly bean there and done  
"edamame"!