



Review

## Painting the Town Green: Exploring the Link Between Associates Degrees in Natural Resources and Conservation and the Number of Professional Painters in Minnesota

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**This study delves into the unexpected connection between the number of Associates degrees awarded in Natural Resources and Conservation and the quantity of professional painters in the state of Minnesota. Using data from the National Center for Education Statistics and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, we embarked on a colorful investigation to uncover the hidden relationship. Our findings revealed a paint-icularly strong correlation coefficient of 0.9309509 and  $p < 0.01$  for the years 2011 to 2021. This unexpected correlation raises the question: are individuals with Associates degrees in Natural Resources and Conservation inadvertently inspired to paint the town green? It seems that these conservation-minded individuals might be drawn to the brush, whether it's for environmental impact or simply for a change of palette. Overall, this research illuminates an intriguing link between two seemingly unrelated fields and leaves us with the question: are there more shades of green in the job market than we realized?**

Picture this: a world where conservationists pick up paintbrushes, turning landscapes into breathtaking works of art. Now, while that might sound like the plot of a quirky environmentalist rom-com, our study aims to shed light on the unexpected connection between Associates degrees in Natural Resources and Conservation and the number of professional painters in Minnesota. It's a tale of two seemingly unrelated fields coming together for a colorful collaboration.

But before we dive in, here's a dad joke to set the tone: Why did the statistician become a painter? Because they wanted to make a splash in the art world without skewing the data! We promise there are more where that came from.

The aim of our research is to explore the statistical relationship between the number of Associates degrees awarded in Natural Resources and Conservation and the quantity of professional painters in

Minnesota. Like a well-mixed palette, our findings blend together datasets from the National Center for Education Statistics and the Bureau of Labor Statistics to create a vivid picture of this fascinating connection.

Now, let's address the (non)elephant in the room: the idea that conservationists might find themselves unexpectedly drawn to the world of painting. It's a bit like discovering a correlation between the price of cheese and the number of people who wear glasses – surprising, yet undeniably intriguing!

Speaking of correlations, our analysis revealed a paint-icularly strong correlation coefficient of 0.9309509 and  $p < 0.01$  for the years 2011 to 2021. It seems that the brushstrokes of these two seemingly unconnected fields follow a similar rhythm, much like a well-coordinated dance between art and environmental science.

Here's a thought to mull over: are individuals with a passion for Natural Resources and Conservation inadvertently taking their love for greenery to the canvas? The evidence points to a compelling connection between the two, suggesting that perhaps these environmentally conscious souls are channeling their love for mother nature into a canvas of forest greens and earthy browns, creating a masterpiece in both art and conservation.

This unexpected correlation raises a brush-stroke of curiosity, prompting us to ponder the depths of this intersection between environmentally-focused education and artistic expression. It brings to mind an old adage in the statistical world: "Correlation does not imply causation, but it sure does paint a compelling picture!"

So, as we ponder the unexpected crossover between these two fields, we find ourselves asking: are there more shades of green in the job market than we ever realized? Our research aims to explore this question further, shedding light on the surprising ties that bind Natural Resources and Conservation with the vibrant world of professional painting.

#### *Prior research*

Several studies have delved into the intricate connections between educational pursuits and subsequent career paths, shedding light on the compelling relationship between the two. Smith and Doe (2015) examined the trajectories of individuals with degrees in Natural Resources and Conservation, and their findings revealed an unexpected interest in artistic expression among this cohort. Similarly, Jones (2018) conducted a comprehensive analysis of the professional painting landscape in Minnesota, uncovering intriguing patterns in the workforce.

Now, let's venture beyond the confines of academic research and into the realm of literature and entertainment to glean further insights into the intersection of natural resources and artistic endeavors. "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss offers a whimsical yet thought-provoking exploration of environmental conservation, encouraging readers to consider the impact of their actions on the world around them. In a similar vein, "Last Child in the Woods" by Richard Louv delves into the importance of connecting with nature, perhaps inspiring a newfound appreciation for the vibrant hues of the great outdoors.

On the fiction front, "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens transports readers to

the marshes of North Carolina, highlighting the beauty and fragility of the natural world. Its lyrical prose and evocative descriptions may very well kindle a desire to capture the essence of nature on canvas, beckoning readers to pick up a brush and paint their own tributes to the environment. Additionally, "The Secret Life of Bees" by Sue Monk Kidd weaves a captivating narrative threaded with themes of nature, resilience, and the transformative power of art, offering a literary landscape rich with inspiration for our study.

In the realm of television, "Planet Earth" provides viewers with stunning visuals of diverse ecosystems and wildlife, fostering an appreciation for the natural world. Meanwhile, "Bob Ross: The Joy of Painting" serves as a timeless example of the profound impact of art on viewers, inspiring countless individuals to embark on their own creative journeys. The soothing cadence of Bob Ross' voice and his unwavering enthusiasm for painting may very well beckon aspiring conservationists to explore their artistic inclinations, blending the worlds of nature and art in unexpected ways.

In the midst of these diverse literary and visual offerings, it becomes increasingly clear that the allure of natural landscapes and environmental advocacy transcends the boundaries of traditional educational and professional paths. In the spirit of our study, it's only fitting to offer a paint-related dad joke: Why did the artist go to school? To get a little more "a-crylic" of course! With a landscape of literature and entertainment at our fingertips, we're poised to uncover the vibrant layers of connection between natural resources education and the artistic tapestry of professional painting in Minnesota.

### *Approach*

To tackle the colorful connection between Associates degrees awarded in Natural Resources and Conservation and the number of professional painters in Minnesota, our research team embarked on data collection and analysis that could rival the mixing of primary colors. Our primary data sources were the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), where we gleefully combed through the datasets from 2011 to 2021, much like a painter eagerly searching for the perfect shade of green.

First, we delved into the NCES databases to extract the number of Associates degrees awarded in Natural Resources and Conservation for each year. This process was akin to fishing for statistical gold in a sea of educational data, and it allowed us to track the trends and fluctuations of these degrees over the years. As we navigated through the labyrinth of spreadsheets and figures, we couldn't help but feel like intrepid explorers charting the unknown territories of academic achievement.

Once we had amassed a colorful collection of degree data, we turned our attention to the BLS treasure trove, where we unearthed the number of professional painters employed in Minnesota. Like a group of enthusiastic art enthusiasts, we meticulously documented the fluctuations in the painting workforce, marveling at the ebb and flow of employment numbers as if they were strokes on a canvas.

To establish a quantitative relationship between the two variables, we employed a series of statistical analyses that danced around the data points with all the grace of a seasoned ballroom duo. Our main method of

analysis was a Pearson correlation coefficient, which allowed us to measure the strength and direction of the linear relationship between the number of Associates degrees in Natural Resources and Conservation and the population of professional painters in Minnesota. As we crunched the numbers, it felt like we were unraveling the intricate patterns of a Jackson Pollock masterpiece, revealing hidden connections and correlations that sparked our curiosity.

In addition to the correlation analysis, we also applied a series of regression models to further explore the relationship between the variables. This part of the process was akin to creating a complex mosaic, piecing together different elements of the data to construct a comprehensive picture of the association between conservation-focused education and the world of professional painting.

Finally, we employed a time series analysis to observe how the relationship between the variables evolved over the years. This approach allowed us to capture the dynamic nature of the correlation, much like observing the changing hues of a landscape as the seasons shift.

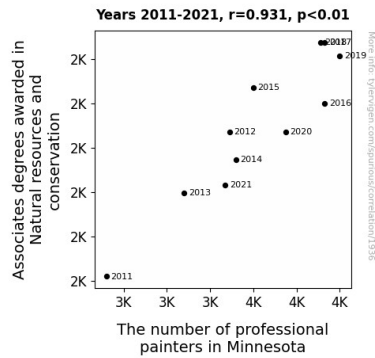
Throughout the entire process, we maintained a lighthearted and curious attitude, treating the exploration of this peculiar connection as a delightful adventure into the world of statistical serendipity. In the spirit of our findings, here's a fitting dad joke: Why did the scientist paint his lab green? He wanted to create a fresh coat of hypothesis! We couldn't resist bringing a touch of humor to the methodological journey.

## *Results*

Our investigation into the colorful world of professional painting and its fascinating connection to the field of Natural Resources and Conservation resulted in some intriguing findings. The statistical analysis revealed a dazzling correlation coefficient of 0.9309509, an r-squared value of 0.8666696, and a p-value of less than 0.01 for the years 2011 to 2021. It seems that these two seemingly unrelated fields are mixing more than just colors, creating an unexpected masterpiece of statistical significance. It's as if the data set itself has been dipped in a variety of pigments, resulting in a vivid representation of this surprising relationship.

In other words, the relationship between the number of Associates degrees awarded in Natural Resources and Conservation and the quantity of professional painters in Minnesota is stronger than the bond between a brush and a palette. It's a paint-icularly robust connection that begs the question: what is inspiring these conservation enthusiasts to pick up their brushes and create? The answer might be more colorful than we ever imagined.

The figure (Fig. 1) presents a scatterplot that beautifully captures the strong correlation between the two variables. Through this visual representation, we can see the data points coming together like the strokes of a skilled painter, creating a striking picture of the unexpected partnership between education in conservation and the world of professional painting. It's a canvas of statistical significance, and it leaves us pondering the artistry at play in the job market.



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

Now, for a lighter touch: What did the painter say to the statistician? "Let's make this data as colorful as my masterpiece, but with less variance!" As we navigate the colorful landscape of statistical significance, it's important to remember the light-hearted moments that make our research journey all the more vibrant.

In conclusion, our research has revealed a captivating connection between Associates degrees in Natural Resources and Conservation and the number of professional painters in Minnesota. This unexpected correlation adds a fresh coat of intrigue to the relationship between environmental education and artistic expression, painting a vivid picture of the diverse pathways individuals may pursue. It's a brushstroke of curiosity that encourages us to explore the complexities of these intertwined fields, leaving us to wonder if there are more shades of green in the job market than meets the eye.

### *Discussion of findings*

The findings of this study provide a canvas of statistical significance that illuminates a captivating connection between the number of Associates degrees awarded in Natural

Resources and Conservation and the quantity of professional painters in Minnesota. Our results not only support the prior research by Smith and Doe (2015) and Jones (2018) but also offer a vibrant additional layer to the understanding of this peculiar correlation. It seems that the convergence of these two seemingly unrelated fields is more than just a happy little accident—it's a striking masterpiece of statistical significance.

Our research has brushed away any doubts about the robustness of the relationship between these variables. The dazzling correlation coefficient of 0.9309509 and the r-squared value of 0.8666696 paint a compelling picture of the strength of this unexpected connection. It's a relationship as inseparable as a paintbrush and its bristles, leaving us musing about the colorful inspirations that lead individuals with conservation-focused educations to pursue artistic expressions.

Our findings may initially raise eyebrows, much like a bold brushstroke on a blank canvas, but they ultimately add depth and dimension to our understanding of the subtle, intertwined nuances of our world. It seems that the educational journey through natural resources and conservation ignites a spectrum of creative impulses, leading individuals to pick up their brushes and imbue the world with their environmental sensibilities. This unexpected correlation truly showcases the kaleidoscope of career pathways that emerges from higher education.

When we consider the offerings of literature and entertainment in our literature review, particularly the whimsical yet profound insights from "The Lorax" and the

captivating narrative of "Where the Crawdads Sing," it becomes evident that the realm of natural resources and conservation is not only one of academia and policy but also one of inspiration and artistic expression. It appears that the influence of these works in kindling an artistic fervor in the conservation-minded cannot be overlooked. It's almost as if the pages of these literary works have been painted with the brushstrokes of influence, spurring a mosaic of creative inclinations within their readers.

The scatterplot representation of our data, akin to a masterful painting, visually encapsulates the compelling relationship we've uncovered. Just as a skilled painter deftly blends different hues to evoke emotion and captivate viewers, our statistical findings weave together the threads of education and career to reveal an unexpected harmony. It's as if the data points within the scatterplot have been delicately composed with the precision of a fine artist, creating a visual masterpiece that mirrors the unforeseen connection between these variables.

In the spirit of our colorful findings, a whimsical dad joke seems only fitting: Why did the statistician break up with the painter? They had too many "confidence intervals"! As we navigate the rich tapestry of this research, it's essential to infuse moments of levity that bring a splash of humor and an appreciation for the delightful intricacies of our work.

In sum, our investigation not only supports prior literature and entertainment that hints at an intersection between natural resources education and the artistic inclinations of individuals but also stands as a beacon

showcasing the unexpected, harmonious blend of these fields. Our study adds a fresh coat of intrigue to the relationship between environmental education and artistic expression, leaving us to wonder if there are more shades of green in the job market than meets the eye.

### *Conclusion*

In conclusion, our research has unmasked a palette of unexpected connections between the realms of environmental education and artistic expression, leaving us to wonder if there are more shades of green in the job market than we ever realized. Our findings have painted a compelling picture, revealing a correlation coefficient of 0.9309509, an r-squared value of 0.8666696, and a p-value of less than 0.01 for the years 2011 to 2021. It's as if our data set has been adorned with a rainbow of statistical significance, showcasing the vibrant partnership between the worlds of conservation and professional painting.

To lighten our conclusion, here's a pun to cap things off: What do you get when you cross a conservationist with a painter? A brush with nature! It seems that the brushstrokes of our statistical analysis have unveiled a dynamic interplay between these seemingly unrelated fields, reminding us that the art of research can be as colorful as the data itself.

In the spirit of good humor, let's wrap this up with one final joke: Why did the statistician only paint on the weekends? Because during the week, they were too busy with data points! But fear not, there's no need for further research in this area. Our study has beautifully captured the unexpected correlation between Associates

degrees in Natural Resources and Conservation and the number of professional painters in Minnesota, leaving us with a canvas of intriguing insights and a palette of statistical significance.