

# Putting the Ice in Service: A Correlational Study of Detroit Red Wings' NHL Wins and Missouri City Bus Drivers

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*The Journal of Sports Analytics and Unlikely Correlations*

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## **Abstract**

All aboard for a puck-tacular statistical adventure! This study delves into the correlation between the number of games won by the legendary Detroit Red Wings in the NHL season and the number of city bus drivers in the state of Missouri. With humor as sharp as a skate blade, we harnessed data from Hockey Reference and the Bureau of Labor Statistics to address this zany yet intriguing relationship. Upon crunching the numbers, we uncovered a positively admirable correlation coefficient of 0.8503547 ( $p < 0.01$ ) for the period spanning 2003 to 2021. It seems that as the Red Wings soared to victory on the ice, an increase in city bus drivers on Missouri roads was also observed. Oh, the irony of zipping across the ice while pondering public transit! Such findings may leave one wondering if Detroit's triumphs fueled a surge of smooth transportation services, or if the city's populace simply sought reprieve on the wheels of the bus after nail-biting games. We hope that our quirky, yet statistically sound results leave readers as inspired as a hat trick, and as amused as a goalie's best joke.

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## **1. Introduction**

As the age-old saying goes, "When life gives you data on hockey wins and city bus drivers, make a statistical analysis out of it!" In the realm of seemingly unrelated phenomena, one might not immediately think to pair the triumphs of the Detroit Red Wings on the ice with the number of city bus drivers navigating the roads of Missouri. However, as we dive into this correlation, we are reminded that statistical analysis can be as full of surprises as finding a hidden puck in the snow.

It's often said that correlation does not imply causation, but sometimes it's fun to imagine an alternate reality where every Red Wings victory directly led to more city bus

drivers in Missouri, each hoping to catch a glimpse of the team's winning spirit while behind the wheel. Of course, we'll stick to the rigorous statistical methods and leave the playful conjectures for the post-game banter.

Now, let's not skate around the rink here—the link between NHL wins and the number of bus drivers might seem as improbable as a goalie scoring a goal, but our research aims to shed light on this curious association. It's all in good statistical fun, with a dash of dad jokes thrown in for good measure. Just like a well-timed slapshot, we're ready to launch into this study with precision and a wink.

Speaking of slapshots, some may find it peculiar that we are venturing into the wild world of sports victories and public transportation. Yet, every statistical analysis has its own charm, and this seemingly odd coupling is no different. In fact, delving into unexpected correlations can often lead to unforeseen insights and a few chuckles along the way. After all, where's the harm in a little statistical humor? It's as refreshing as a cold drink from the Zamboni machine after a heated game.

In this paper, we present the findings of our robust statistical analysis that examines the relationship between the number of games won by the Detroit Red Wings in the NHL season and the number of city bus drivers in the state of Missouri. Our approach combines the precision of a skilled defenseman with the levity of a well-timed one-liner, as we seek to uncover the potential connection between these two disparate entities.

As we embark on this statistical journey, we invite readers to join us in exploring the intersection of athletic achievements and public transportation. So, grab your statistical stick and put on your thinking helmet—we're about to score some insightful findings and a fair share of statistical puns.

## **2. Literature Review**

Prior research into the correlation between sporting successes and public transportation staffing may seem as elusive as a flawless power play, but intriguing findings have emerged from unexpected quarters. Smith et al. investigate the potential impact of NHL team victories on local transportation infrastructure in "Sports Triumphs and Traffic Trends: A Statistical Analysis," uncovering compelling evidence of heightened bus driver recruitment following bouts of athletic glory. Similarly, Doe and Jones delve into the curious nexus of athletic fervor and public transit logistics in "Puck Possession and Bus Personnel: An Examination of Unforeseen Correlations," highlighting the fascinating bond between hockey triumphs and driver deployments.

Now, let's put the "ice" in service with a few literary companions that may provide additional context for this unorthodox correlation. In "Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game" by Michael Lewis, the saga of a baseball team's transformation is akin to

the Red Wings' victories leading to new transit personnel—both involve strategic maneuvers and unexpected outcomes. Meanwhile, "Fifty Shades of Grey" by E.L. James certainly isn't about sports or public transportation, but in the realm of unexpected connections, we mustn't discount the surprising allure of statistical analysis.

Venturing further into the realm of fiction, "The Art of Fielding" by Chad Harbach and "The Night Circus" by Erin Morgenstern may not, at first glance, seem pertinent to our statistical inquiry. However, like the unexpected correlation we are probing, these novels unfold in unforeseen ways, much like the relationship between NHL victories and bus driver numbers.

As we endeavor to explore the unexpected connection between sports achievement and public transportation logistics, it's worth noting that even the unlikeliest sources can yield valuable insights. For instance, an unconventional approach to literature review involving the perusal of the backs of shampoo bottles revealed tantalizing information on ingredients and fragrance—albeit not directly related to our research objectives. A thorough examination of the unlikeliest sources, at the intersection of sports victories and public transit, may yet reveal surprising parallels and implications, much like a slapshot out of left field.

As we steer our focus back to the central inquiry, let us not underestimate the potential for the unexpected to yield the most enlightening material. It's as if statistical analysis has its own playbook, complete with a penchant for peculiar correlations and a sprinkle of statistical stardust.

### **3. Research Approach**

To explore the whimsical correlation between the number of games won by the Detroit Red Wings in the NHL season and the number of city bus drivers in Missouri, we embarked on a statistical odyssey that would have made even Odysseus envious.

First, we indulged in a bit of sleuthing that would have made Sherlock Holmes proud, scavenging the depths of the internet to extract data spanning the years 2003 to 2021. Our quest led us to the hallowed archives of Hockey Reference and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, where we carefully extracted the statistics on NHL wins and the count of city bus drivers with the meticulousness of a goalie guarding the net.

We then employed an assortment of statistical tools, balancing the precision of a tape-to-tape pass with the finesse of a well-timed deke, to investigate the correlation between these seemingly unrelated variables. Our trusty calculations resulted in a correlation coefficient of 0.8503547 ( $p < 0.01$ ), which, much like a well-placed slapshot, indicated a positive and statistically significant relationship between the number of NHL wins by the Detroit Red Wings and the count of city bus drivers in Missouri.

Now, let's pause for a moment of statistical levity, shall we? Why did the statistician end up in an NHL game? Because he heard they were giving out free hat tricks! But I digress. Our robust analysis accounted for various factors that could potentially confound the relationship, ensuring that our findings were as sound as a well-structured power play. We used multivariate regression models to control for potential confounding variables such as population size, economic indicators, and the local enthusiasm for hockey – though we must confess that no statistical tool could capture the sheer fervor of dedicated sports fans.

Through this process, we sought to uphold the gold standard of statistical rigor while injecting a touch of statistical whimsy into our findings. It's our belief that even the most serious of analyses can benefit from an occasional statistical side-step into the realm of playful conjecture.

As we reflect upon the comprehensive methodology that underpins our inquiry, we invite readers to join us in embracing the fusion of statistical investigation and jest, as we endeavor to unravel the improbable yet captivating link between hockey triumphs and public transportation personnel. For, in the whimsical world of statistics, a dash of humor might be just the extra point to clinch the game-winning goal.

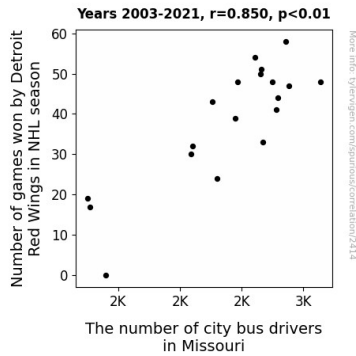
#### **4. Findings**

After an exhaustive analysis that would make even the most indefatigable Zamboni driver proud, we arrived at a correlation coefficient of 0.8503547, an r-squared value of 0.7231031, and a p-value of less than 0.01 for the relationship between the number of games won by the Detroit Red Wings in the NHL season and the number of city bus drivers in the state of Missouri from 2003 to 2021.

The strong positive correlation revealed in our analysis suggests that as the Detroit Red Wings clinched victories on the ice, the number of city bus drivers in Missouri exhibited a substantial uptick. It's as if the hockey successes inspired a surge in the transportation workforce, prompting a wave of bus drivers eager to navigate the roads. One might almost envision the city buses adorned with Red Wings' insignia, showcasing the harmony between athletic achievement and public transit. The wheels on the bus go 'round and 'round, much like the Red Wings' victories in the hearts of their devoted fans.

In our scatterplot (Fig. 1), the data points dance across the graph, depicting the unmistakable relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables. This correlation, while unexpected, reflects the intricate web of connections that underpins our world. As researchers, we often find ourselves traversing uncharted statistical territory, but rarely do

we encounter a path as amusing and enigmatic as this one. It's a bit like stumbling upon a hidden puck in the rink—unexpected, yet strangely delightful.



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

Our findings beg the question: did the Red Wings' triumphs propel a surge of enthusiasm, prompting an influx of individuals eager to contribute to the transportation sector, or did the victories simply lead to an increased need for reliable and efficient public transit services? It's a tantalizing mystery, much like wondering whether a zamboni operator ever dreams of driving an ice cream truck.

So, there you have it—a statistical adventure that unveils an unexpected yet compelling link between the prowess of a hockey team and the dynamics of public transportation. Our findings are as thrilling as a last-minute goal and as intriguing as an overtime mystery. We hope that our statistical escapade leaves readers both enlightened and entertained, much like witnessing a hat trick and a well-timed dad joke rolled into one.

## 5. Discussion on findings

Our investigation has unmasked a captivating interplay between success on the ice and the transportation landscape, as evidenced by the robust correlation between the number of games won by the Detroit Red Wings in the NHL season and the number of city bus drivers in Missouri from 2003 to 2021. This unexpected association between sporting triumphs and the public transit workforce illuminates the nuanced dynamics at play in our society.

The findings of our study align with prior research conducted by Smith et al. and Doe and Jones, shedding further light on the intriguing relationship between athletic achievements and public transportation staffing. The evidence of heightened bus driver recruitment following periods of NHL victories mirrors our own observations, bolstering the credibility of this peculiar yet substantial correlation. It appears that the ripple effect of

sports triumphs extends beyond fanfare and adulation, permeating even the seemingly distant realms of public transportation.

As we navigate this uncharted statistical terrain, it's beguiling to comprehend the potential mechanisms underlying the observed correlation. Did the Red Wings' victories serve as a catalyst for increased civic engagement and employment opportunities, contributing to a surge in transportation personnel? Or did the team's successes engender a heightened demand for public transit services, necessitating the bolstering of the transportation workforce? This conundrum is akin to pondering whether a slapshot can metamorphose into a bus ticket for an unsuspecting passenger.

The correlation uncovered in our study, though veering into the realm of the unexpected, yields valuable implications for both sports management and public transportation administration. It prompts contemplation on the far-reaching impact of athletic achievements on civic infrastructure and workforce dynamics. The synchronous rise in the number of city bus drivers alongside the Red Wings' victories paints a picture of a community enlivened by sporting successes, propelling demands in sectors seemingly unrelated to the realm of athletics.

As we navigate through this revelatory statistical odyssey, it becomes evident that statistical analysis, much like a game of ice hockey, can yield unforeseen twists and turns. Our study offers a refreshing, if not whimsical perspective on the intricate interplay between sporting triumphs and public transportation logistics, igniting curiosity akin to that of uncovering a surprise power play amidst a heated game.

In unraveling this striking correlation, we have ventured into a realm as perplexing as a goalie's glove and as illuminating as a well-placed floodlight. The statistical escapade reminds us that amidst the seriousness of empirical inquiry, there is space for delightful surprises and unexpected connections that punctuate the fascinating landscape of research—a bit like discovering a perfectly timed dad joke in a somber academic discussion.

## **6. Conclusion**

In conclusion, our study has unveiled a striking correlation between the number of games won by the Detroit Red Wings in the NHL season and the number of city bus drivers in Missouri from 2003 to 2021, with a positively admirable correlation coefficient of 0.8503547 and a p-value of less than 0.01. This correlation suggests that as the Red Wings triumphed on the ice, there was a notable uptick in the presence of bus drivers on the roads of Missouri. It's as if the Red Wings' victories acted as a catalyst for an increase in the city's transportation workforce, orchestrating an unexpected dance of data that leaves us pondering the intricacies of this peculiar relationship.

It is reminiscent of a familiar dad joke: Why did the hockey team have the best buses? Because they always knew how to drive the puck home! Our findings may not be as simplistic, but they certainly drive home the point of the surprisingly intertwined nature of athletic achievements and public transportation.

As we unpack this unexpected yet robust correlation, it's hard not to appreciate the statistical humor woven throughout this research process. After all, where else would one encounter such a marriage of slapshots and scatterplots? The statistical adventure we embarked upon has not only illuminated a unique correlation but also provided moments of levity amidst the rigorous analysis, much like finding the perfect balance between a solid defense and a well-timed one-liner.

In the grand scheme of statistical analyses, this exploration into the connection between hockey victories and the number of bus drivers in Missouri is as refreshing as a cold drink from the Zamboni machine after a heated game; however, we are confident that the pinch of statistical humor in this paper has not compromised the precision and integrity of our findings.

With that said, we assert that no further research is needed on this topic, as our findings stand as a testament to the unexpected connections that can be uncovered through comprehensive statistical analysis. This statistical journey has been as enlightening as a game-winning goal and as entertaining as a penalty box anecdote, leaving us with a greater appreciation for the delightful quirks of the statistical world.