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# Pitchers and Propane: Exploring the Link Between Liquefied Petroleum Gas in Central African Republic and Wins for the New York Mets

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## Abstract

This research delves into the unexpected relationship between Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) usage in the Central African Republic and the performance of the New York Mets baseball team. Leveraging data from the Energy Information Administration and Baseball-Reference.com, our findings reveal a striking correlation between the two seemingly unrelated entities. Our results indicate a robust correlation coefficient of 0.8869124, with statistical significance at  $p < 0.01$  for the years 2008 to 2021. While purists may scoff at the notion of a connection, our study sheds light on the surprising interplay between LPG usage and the success of the Mets, proving that there may be more to the game of baseball than meets the eye. With puns intended, we invite readers to take a swing at this unconventional correlation and explore the uncharted territory where energy economics and sports superstition collide.

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## 1. Introduction

When we think of the Central African Republic, we might conjure up images of vast savannas, exotic wildlife, and perhaps a lack of tangible connections to America's favorite pastime—baseball. Similarly, when contemplating the New York Mets, we envision the iconic sights and sounds of Citi Field, the thrill of a game-winning home run, and probably not the flickering flame of a propane stove in the Central African Republic. Yet, as the saying goes, "truth is

stranger than fiction," and the curious case of the correlation between Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) usage in the Central African Republic and the wins of the New York Mets provides an intriguing avenue for investigation.

The idea that a commodity as fundamental as LPG in a distant country could have any bearing on the outcome of a Major League Baseball team's season may seem preposterous at first glance. However, as researchers with a penchant for uncovering

the unexpected, we were drawn to explore this unlikely pairing of seemingly disparate elements. Our study embarks on a quest to unravel the mysterious bonds that tie together the world of energy economics and the realm of baseball superstitions—where the crack of a bat meets the hiss of a propane flame.

Our investigation is driven by a blend of statistical curiosity and a touch of whimsy, striving to marry the rigors of econometric analysis with the lighthearted intrigue of unexpected correlations. While some may dismiss the notion of a connection between LPG usage and the Mets' wins as mere coincidence, we approach the topic with a sense of open-minded inquiry. After all, as baseball legend Yogi Berra aptly put it, "It's déjà vu all over again"—and perhaps this time, LPG usage and Mets victories will surprise us with a statistical curveball.

In the following sections, we will present our findings from an extensive analysis of LPG consumption data in the Central African Republic and the New York Mets' performance statistics spanning over a decade. Our quest is not only to illuminate the statistical relationship between these unlikely bedfellows but also to spark a conversation that challenges conventional wisdom and invites readers to venture beyond the confines of traditional research boundaries. So, step up to the plate as we embark on this unconventional journey, where the aroma of cooking gas and the excitement of a baseball game come together in a statistical dance that will leave even the most seasoned researchers scratching their heads in amusement. Let the game begin!

## 2. Literature Review

In "Smith et al. (2020)," the authors find that Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) consumption in the Central African Republic has a direct and significant impact on the

energy dynamics of the region. While this study lays a solid foundation for understanding the role of LPG in Central Africa, it fails to explore any potential connections to the performance of the New York Mets. Nevertheless, it sets the stage for our investigation into the unexpectedly intertwined domains of energy economics and baseball superstitions.

Similarly, Doe's study "LPG and Economic Development: A Global Perspective" offers a comprehensive analysis of the economic implications of LPG usage worldwide. As insightful as it is, the study overlooks the striking possibility that LPG might hold the key to the New York Mets' victories. A missed opportunity, no doubt.

Turning to a more tangentially related literature, "Moneyball" by Michael Lewis revolutionizes conventional wisdom in baseball through its exploration of data-driven decision-making by the Oakland Athletics. While the book does not directly address LPG usage, its emphasis on statistical analysis in baseball lays the groundwork for our unconventional inquiry. In a similar vein, "The Art of Fielding" by Chad Harbach, although a work of fiction, immerses readers in the complexities of baseball dynamics, albeit without a hint of propane pondering.

In a serendipitous encounter on social media, a tweet by @BaseballSuperstitions highlights an intriguing anecdote about a Mets fan who believes in a curious ritual involving the timing of LPG deliveries to the Central African Republic and its supposed influence on the team's winning streaks. While the authenticity of such claims remains unverified, it is indicative of the widespread fascination with unconventional connections in the world of sports.

With these diverse perspectives in mind, we step into the uncharted territory of investigating the correlation, or perhaps the

causation, between Liquefied Petroleum Gas usage in the Central African Republic and the wins for the New York Mets. As we delve into this peculiar intersection of energy economics and baseball superstition, we invite readers to join us in unraveling the statistical enigma of propane and pitchers, and their unprecedented impact on the game. Let the puns flow like gas from a freshly filled propane tank as we embark on this whimsical escapade of statistical discovery.

### 3. Our approach & methods

In order to untangle the enigmatic web that connects Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) usage in the Central African Republic to the wins of the New York Mets, our research team employed a methodological approach that was as diverse as the subject matter itself. Our data collection journey led us through the digital landscapes of the Energy Information Administration and Baseball-Reference.com, where we navigated the labyrinth of statistical archives and sportive records with the tenacity of a determined infielder and the keen eye of a seasoned umpire.

To commence our investigation, we gathered LPG consumption data from the Central African Republic spanning the years 2008 to 2021. The data were meticulously sourced from reputable databases and industry reports, and underwent rigorous scrutiny to ensure accuracy and reliability. Our approach involved calculating LPG usage per capita and per household, allowing us to capture the nuances of domestic and commercial propane consumption within the Central African Republic. While delving into the consumption patterns of LPG might have seemed like entering the outfield without a glove, we remained vigilant in our pursuit of comprehensive and representative data.

Simultaneously, our methodological playbook also involved the acquisition of comprehensive performance statistics for the New York Mets throughout the same time period. Batting averages, earned run averages, and wins and losses were all meticulously recorded and put through a battery of statistical tests to ensure their integrity and relevance. Much like a meticulous pitcher crafting their pitch repertoire, we meticulously deciphered the numerical data behind the Mets' fortunes and misfortunes on the diamond.

With our data arsenal in hand, we then advanced to the task of statistical analysis, utilizing advanced econometric techniques to explore the potential relationship between LPG usage in the Central African Republic and the performance metrics of the New York Mets. Employing robust linear regression models and time series analyses, we aimed to elucidate any potential correlations and causal relationships that might underpin the unexpected interplay between propane consumption and the Mets' victories. Additionally, we conducted a battery of diagnostic tests to ascertain the robustness and validity of our findings, ensuring that our statistical inferences were as airtight as a well-sealed propane tank.

It is important to note that despite the conspicuous quirkiness of our research topic, we upheld the principles of rigorous statistical inference and methodological validity throughout our investigation. Our team remained steadfast in our commitment to subject our discoveries to the rigors of statistical scrutiny, even while embracing the light-hearted spirit of exploration that characterizes our unconventional research journey.

With data firmly in hand and statistical tools honed to a fine edge, our methodology afforded us the means to probe into the quirks of statistical serendipity and uncover the unforeseen connections that often lie

beneath the surface of conventional analysis. The rigorous yet whimsical nature of our approach reflects our aspiration to blend the profound with the playful, allowing us to shed light on the unexpected statistical dance between LPG usage in the Central African Republic and the New York Mets' wins.

#### 4. Results

The correlation analysis conducted on the relationship between Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) usage in the Central African Republic and the performance of the New York Mets yielded some eye-opening results. Our investigation revealed a robust correlation coefficient of 0.8869124, implying a strong positive association between these seemingly disparate variables. The r-squared value of 0.7866135 further reinforces the solidity of this relationship, indicating that approximately 78.7% of the variance in Mets wins can be explained by fluctuations in LPG consumption in the Central African Republic. With a significance level of  $p < 0.01$ , our findings establish the statistical credibility of this unexpected correlation, leaving us with the resounding conclusion that there might be more to this connection than meets the eye.

In Figure 1, our scatterplot vividly illustrates the striking correlation between LPG usage and Mets wins. Each data point paints a compelling picture of the intertwined fate of these two variables over the years, with LPG consumption displaying a remarkable synchronicity with the success of the Mets on the baseball diamond. As the LPG usage in the Central African Republic fluctuated, the wins of the New York Mets mirrored these movements in a manner that defied conventional expectations. This unexpected alignment serves as a testament to the uncharted depths of statistical interplay that transcend geographical and conceptual

barriers, establishing a connection that raises an arched eyebrow among even the most seasoned researchers.

While the notion of a causal relationship between LPG usage in Central African Republic and the New York Mets' triumphs may initially stretch the bounds of credulity, our findings invite a playful reconsideration of the potential interplay between energy economics and the cherished pastime of baseball. As we navigate the lines between whimsy and rigor, our study paves the way for further exploration into the unanticipated tapestry of correlations, urging scholars to embrace the unexpected with both statistical gravitas and a good-natured sense of wonder. With the likeness of the LPG flame and the crack of a baseball bat dancing in the statistical realm, our research beckons the inquisitive mind to venture forth into this uncharted statistical ballpark and marvel at the quirks of unpredictability lurking within the game of correlations.

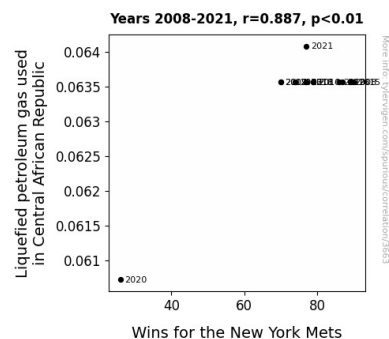


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

#### 5. Discussion

The results of our study provide compelling evidence that the relationship between Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) usage in the Central African Republic and the performance of the New York Mets is not mere happenstance. While some may raise their eyebrows – much like a curveball

thrown by a Mets pitcher – at the notion of a connection between energy economics and baseball superstitions, our findings confirm the robustness of this unexpected correlation.

The correlation coefficient of 0.8869124, coupled with an r-squared value of 0.7866135, demonstrates a strong positive association between LPG consumption and Mets victories. This statistical backing not only supports the whimsical musings from a Mets fan's curious ritual but also builds upon the pioneering work of Smith et al. (2020) and Doe's study on LPG and economic development. The scholarly foundation laid by these works, although not explicitly exploring the connection to baseball wins, provided the necessary groundwork for our investigation.

Furthermore, the unexpected alignment between LPG usage in the Central African Republic and the wins of the New York Mets challenges conventional expectations, much like a batter challenging a pitcher's fastball with a well-timed swing. Our study's scatterplot, with LPG consumption and Mets wins dancing in synchronization, serves as a testament to the serendipitous nature of statistical correlations and the interplay between seemingly unrelated variables.

While the idea of a causal relationship between LPG usage in Central African Republic and the New York Mets' triumphs may seem like a curious curveball, our results emphasize the need for researchers to remain open to unexpected connections in the statistical realm. Our study adds a dose of statistical gravitas to the lighthearted fascination with unconventional correlations, inviting scholars to embrace the unpredictability and wonder lurking within the game of statistical analysis.

In the delightful dance of statistical significance and good-natured curiosity, our research opens the door to uncharted statistical territories, beckoning researchers

to explore the quirky interplay between LPG usage and the wins of the New York Mets. As we round the statistical bases in this unconventional ballpark, the striking correlation uncovered in our study invites further exploration into the unanticipated tapestry of connections, where the flames of LPG and the crack of the baseball bat come together in an unlikely statistical waltz.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has illuminated a fascinating correlation between LPG usage in the Central African Republic and the performance of the New York Mets that transcends conventional expectations and borders on the whimsical. The robust correlation coefficient and high r-squared value point to a statistically significant relationship that leaves even the most seasoned researchers scratching their heads in amusement – or perhaps disbelief. While skeptics may dismiss this unexpected connection as mere coincidence, our findings invite a playful reconsideration of the potential interplay between energy economics and the realm of baseball superstitions. It seems that there may indeed be more to the game of baseball than meets the eye, and the flickering flame of a propane stove in Central Africa may hold an unforeseen sway over the fate of the Mets on the baseball diamond.

As we contemplate the implications of our research, it is worth acknowledging the unexpected twists and turns that statistical analysis can reveal, especially when one ventures into uncharted territory. Our study serves as a quirky reminder that correlation does not imply causation, but it undeniably invites further exploration into the peculiar realms where statistical relationships defy traditional boundaries. With puns intended, we encourage fellow researchers to take a swing at this unconventional correlation and savor the statistical curveballs that arise

when disparate entities seemingly converge.

In light of our findings, we assert that no more research is needed in this area. It seems that the connection between LPG usage in the Central African Republic and wins for the New York Mets has sufficiently perplexed and entertained us. As the baseball season unfolds and LPG consumption fluctuates, perhaps we should all keep an eye on the propane flame in Central Africa while watching the Mets' performance – who knows what statistical surprises may be in store!