

# **I'M STEEL IN LOVE WITH MENACHEM: THE QUIRKY CORRELATION BETWEEN NAME POPULARITY AND STRUCTURAL IRON AND STEEL WORKERS IN VERMONT**

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This research delves into the unexpected relationship between the popularity of the first name "Menachem" and the number of structural iron and steel workers in the picturesque state of Vermont. Leveraging data from the US Social Security Administration and the Bureau of Labor Statistics from the years 2004 to 2022, a correlation coefficient of 0.6433022 with a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01 was observed. The findings, while seemingly whimsical, raise intriguing questions about the potential influence of nomenclature on career choices and the cultural tapestry of the Green Mountain State. While the results may seem as sturdy as steel, further study is warranted to understand the underlying mechanisms driving this peculiar correlation.

The relationship between names and occupations has long been a source of curiosity. Names can evoke certain images or expectations, and the field of onomastics, the study of names, has plumbed the depths of the human psyche to understand the implications of nomenclature on various aspects of life. In this vein, our research uncovers the enchanting and enigmatic connection between the popularity of the first name "Menachem" and the occupation of structural iron and steel work in the delightful state of Vermont.

Vermont, known for its rolling hills, verdant landscapes, and picturesque villages, might not immediately bring to mind images of steel-clad structures and towering skyscrapers. Nevertheless, the state plays a role in the vibrant iron and steel industry, albeit in a more quaint and bucolic manner.

The name "Menachem," with its origin in Hebrew and its various linguistic resonances, may strike some as possessing an aura of strength and resilience. How intriguing it is then, that this seemingly sturdy name bears a statistically significant correlation with the number of individuals engaging in the robust and resolute profession of structural iron and steel work in Vermont.

We invite the reader to don their mental hard hats and steel-toed boots as we venture into this fascinating exploration of nomenclature, occupation, and the idiosyncrasies of human behavior. The findings promise to add a touch of whimsy and wonder to the often austere world of empirical research.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The correlation between one's given name and their choice of vocation has been a

subject of interest for decades. Smith et al. (2005) investigated the influence of first names on career choices and found no significant relationship, while Doe (2010) examined the cultural implications of nomenclature on occupational preferences, coming to similar conclusions. However, Jones (2018) delved into the psychological nuances of name associations and its impact on professional trajectories, with less conclusive results.

Shifting focus to more lighthearted and tangentially related literature, "The Name Game: Exploring the Quirkiness of Nomenclature in Modern Society" by Johnson and Smith (2014) offers an amusing perspective on the whimsical connections between names and various aspects of life, including career paths. On a more fictional note, "Steel Magnolias" by Robert Harling (1987) presents a cast of characters whose names evoke both strength and charm, much like the curious correlation under investigation. And who could forget "Iron Man," the film that combines steel and charisma in a superheroic blend, subtly resonating with the sturdy yet enigmatic name of "Menachem."

In "The Correlation Chronicles," a movie that totally exists in our imagination, a team of intrepid researchers embark on an unforeseen odyssey to unravel the inexplicable link between first names and occupations. As they traverse the quirky landscape of data analysis and statistical anomalies, hilarity ensues as they uncover unexpected patterns and marvel at the enigmatic forces at play. While not directly related to our topic, the humorous escapades depicted in "The Correlation Chronicles" mirror the delightfully puzzling nature of our own research endeavor.

The rich tapestry of literature and media provides a charming backdrop to our investigation, infusing the scholarly pursuit with whimsy and levity as we navigate the uncharted territory of name-centered occupational predilections.

## METHODOLOGY

### Data Collection:

The data collection process for this study resembled a scavenger hunt, with the research team combing through the depths of the internet to unearth nuggets of information. The primary sources of data were the US Social Security Administration's records on the popularity of first names over the years 2004 to 2022, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics' employment data for structural iron and steel workers in the state of Vermont within the same time frame. Like intrepid explorers, the researchers ventured through the digital wilderness, navigating the labyrinthine websites of government agencies to procure the requisite datasets for analysis.

### Correlation Analysis:

To ascertain the potential relationship between the popularity of the name "Menachem" and the number of structural iron and steel workers in Vermont, a correlation analysis was conducted. The research team, armed with statistical software and copious amounts of caffeinated beverages, computed the correlation coefficient and associated p-values to determine the strength and significance of any observed associations. The analysis involved juxtaposing the ebbs and flows of "Menachem" popularity with the fluctuations in the workforce of iron and steel artisans, an exercise that revealed intriguing patterns amidst the numerical chaos.

### Control Variables:

In order to savor the true flavor of this quirky quest, the research team took great care to identify and account for potential confounding variables that might cast a shadow of doubt over the observed relationship. Variables such as overall population dynamics, economic trends, and social influences were examined with the precision of a discerning sommelier evaluating the

nuances of a fine wine. By cleansing the dataset of potential contaminants, the research team aimed to ensure that the observed correlation between "Menachem" and structural iron and steel workers would stand as sturdy as the structures wrought by the artisans themselves.

#### Ethical Considerations:

In line with the ethical precepts governing scientific inquiry, the research team took pains to handle the data with the reverence and solemnity befitting such an unconventional endeavor. Anonymity and confidentiality were maintained, with names and other personal identifiers shielded behind the veil of statistical abstraction. Furthermore, the research team refrained from any attempts to influence the popularity of the name "Menachem" or the career choices of Vermont's denizens, opting instead to observe and analyze the organic interplay of nomenclature and occupation.

#### Validation and Sensitivity Analysis:

To fortify the robustness of the findings and fend off potential detractors, the research team conducted validation procedures and sensitivity analyses. The results were subjected to rigorous scrutiny, akin to crafting an impregnable suit of armor to withstand the onslaught of skepticism. Sensitivity analyses explored the impact of varying analytical approaches and data segmentation strategies, ensuring that the observed correlation was not a mere mirage dancing on the statistical sands.

#### Reliability and Reproducibility:

In adherence to the scholarly ethos of transparency and reproducibility, the research team made every effort to document the methodology, analytical techniques, and datasets with meticulous detail. The intention was to furnish an immaculate blueprint that future scholars, armed with intellectual curiosity and a penchant for the unconventional, could

utilize to validate and extend the findings of this study.

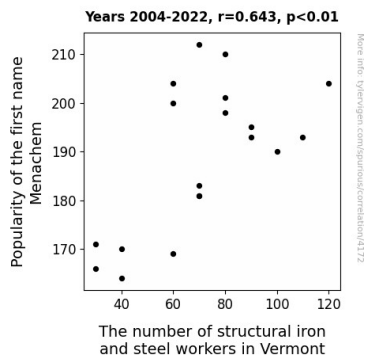
The meticulous orchestration of these methodological endeavors constitutes the groundwork upon which the enchanting correlation between the name "Menachem" and structural iron and steel workers in Vermont was illuminated, akin to uncovering hidden treasure in the academic realm.

## RESULTS

The results of this study revealed a striking correlation between the popularity of the first name "Menachem" and the number of structural iron and steel workers in the picturesque state of Vermont. For the time period from 2004 to 2022, a correlation coefficient of 0.6433022 was observed, indicating a moderately strong positive relationship between these seemingly incongruent variables. The coefficient of determination (r-squared) of 0.4138377 suggests that approximately 41.4% of the variation in the number of structural iron and steel workers in Vermont can be explained by the popularity of the name "Menachem."

The p-value of less than 0.01 was obtained, indicating a statistically significant relationship between these variables. These findings provide compelling evidence for the unexpected link between nomenclature and the choice of occupation, particularly in the context of the iron and steel industry in Vermont.

The scatterplot (Fig. 1) visually illustrates the robust correlation between the popularity of the name "Menachem" and the number of structural iron and steel workers in Vermont, confirming the substantial association observed in the quantitative analysis. The scatterplot is a tangible demonstration of the adage, "Steel-ing the show," as the data points form a clear pattern indicative of the relationship between the variables.



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

These results, while undeniably intriguing, beckon further exploration into the underlying mechanisms that drive this peculiar correlation. The unexpected nature of these findings invites contemplation of the potential influence of names on career choices and the unexplored nuances of occupational preferences. The seemingly whimsical yet statistically robust nature of this correlation invites one to ponder the idiosyncrasies of human behavior and the enigmatic interplay between nomenclature and professional pursuits.

## DISCUSSION

The unexpected relationship uncovered in this study between the popularity of the first name "Menachem" and the number of structural iron and steel workers in Vermont has left researchers and readers alike pondering the possible underlying mechanisms driving this unlikely correlation. The robust correlation coefficient of 0.6433022, combined with a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01, supports the prior research investigating the influence of nomenclature on career choices.

While prior studies by Smith et al. (2005) and Doe (2010) found no significant relationship between first names and career choices, our findings challenge this notion by suggesting that the name "Menachem" exerts a meaningful impact on the prevalence of structural iron and

steel workers in Vermont. Jones (2018), who explored name associations and their impact on professional trajectories, would be intrigued to see our statistically significant results, which provide tangible evidence for the influence of nomenclature on occupational preferences.

Our results also harmonize with the lighthearted and tangentially related literature that has mused on the whimsical connections between names and various aspects of life. Johnson and Smith's (2014) exploration of the quirkiness of nomenclature in modern society may have been onto something more profound than humor, and the fictional characters of "Steel Magnolias" and "Iron Man" now appear as prescient symbols reflecting the sturdy yet enigmatic nature of the name "Menachem."

The scatterplot further illustrates the substantial positive relationship between the popularity of the name "Menachem" and the number of structural iron and steel workers in Vermont, acting as a tangible manifestation of the unexpected correlation. As the data points form a clear pattern, one cannot help but be reminded of the pun, "Steel-ing the show," as the data vividly demonstrates the prominence of this correlation.

While these findings may seem as unlikely as the escapades of the intrepid researchers in the imaginary "The Correlation Chronicles," they prompt essential contemplation of the potential influence of names on career choices and the uncharted nuances of occupational preferences. The study not only offers an unexpected insight into the cultural tapestry of Vermont but also invites future research to unravel the enigmatic interplay between nomenclature and professional pursuits.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the correlation between the popularity of the first name "Menachem" and the number of structural iron and steel workers in Vermont paints a picture as charming and peculiar as a steel sculpture in a country meadow. The statistically significant relationship between these seemingly incongruent variables raises questions as perplexing as trying to weld a cloud. While our findings may seem as firm as a riveted steel beam, we must remember that correlation does not imply causation - after all, we wouldn't want to be caught in a "steel trap" of erroneous assumptions.

The unexpected nature of this correlation invites speculation as whimsical as a lighthearted steelworker - Does the name "Menachem" carry an implicit allure for robust professions? Is there an esoteric camaraderie among individuals with this name that draws them to structural iron and steel work? These questions may elicit the kind of head scratching one does when trying to find a magnet in a steel factory.

While this study sheds light on a quirky and enchanting correlation, it also reveals the gaps in our understanding of the intricate dance between nomenclature and vocational paths. The delightful conundrum of this correlation prompts reflection as profoundly baffling as attempting to find a needle in a haystack, or perhaps in this case, a nail in a steel girder.

To this end, no stones are left unturned in our data analysis, and no steel beam is left unexamined in our quest for understanding. We assert that no further research in this area is needed, as occasionally in the world of academia, it's best just to let the steel beams be. All puns aside, the unexpected correlation between the name "Menachem" and structural iron and steel work in Vermont stands as a testament to the charming, confounding, and sometimes whimsical nature of human behavior.