Fueling the Political Fire: The Correlation Between Republican Votes in New Jersey and Gasoline Consumption in Somalia

Christopher Hoffman, Alexander Travis, Giselle P Tucker

Berkeley, California

This study delves into the perplexing relationship between the voting trends for the Republican presidential candidate in New Jersey and the volume of gasoline pumped in Somalia. Using a combination of data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and the Energy Information Administration, we uncovered a surprisingly strong correlation between these two seemingly unrelated variables. Our findings revealed a striking correlation coefficient of 0.8976398 and a p-value of less than 0.01 over the period from 1980 to 2020. As we untangled the web of statistical associations, we couldn't help but gasp at the unexpected links between the voting patterns in one location and the fuel consumption in a distant land. It's almost as if the political preferences of New Jerseyans have a direct impact on the fuel habits of Somalians - talk about a global domino effect! But fear not, dear readers, as we approached our results with a healthy dose of humor, unearthing some comically odd conjectures along the way. After all, as researchers, we must be willing to explore even the most improbable correlations – who knows, perhaps there's a dad joke out there just waiting to be discovered in the realm of unexpected statistical relationships.

As we peer through the lens of statistical analysis into the intricacies of human behavior and global interconnectivity, we sometimes stumble upon correlations that defy logic, expectations, and occasionally even sanity. Our research delves into the peculiar relationship between the voting trends for the Republican presidential candidate in New Jersey and the volume of gasoline pumped in Somalia. It's a tale of two seemingly disparate data sets coming together like a paradoxical political and fuel-based tango – an unlikely pair indeed. It's almost as if elephants suddenly started investing in the stock market – now that would be a "heavy" investment, wouldn't it?

Let's take a step back from these unexpected connections and set the stage for our inquiry. On one hand, we have the political landscape of New Jersey, a state known for its bustling urban centers, pristine shorelines, and, let's not forget, its propensity for impassioned political discourse. On the other hand, we pivot to Somalia, a nation nestled on the horn of Africa, grappling with a complex tapestry of socio-political challenges, much unlike the garden variety political debates we might encounter on main street USA. It's like comparing apples to… well, gasoline – a seemingly incongruous pair that piques our curiosity and prompts us to explore further. Isn't it fascinating how two vastly different entities can find themselves entwined in the web of statistical significance?

Our quest to untangle this web led us to the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and the Energy Information Administration, where

we collected and meticulously scrutinized the data. And boy, were we in for a surprise! The correlation coefficient that emerged from our analysis was a formidable 0.8976398, with a p-value lower than 0.01. Now, if only finding correlations were as easy as finding Waldo in a book… but alas, we can't just flip through the pages of statistical data with a discerning eye and a red-and-white striped hat, can we?

With our freshly minted results in hand, we scrutinized the implications of our findings. The remarkable correlation between Republican votes in New Jersey and gasoline consumption in Somalia piqued our collective interest and inspired a fervent pursuit of logic in what initially appeared to be a whimsical statistical anomaly. It's almost as if the votes cast in the Garden State are fueling the gasoline pumps in the Horn of Africa – it's a "shore"fire way to keep the global economy revving, don't you think?

Join us in this whimsical pursuit of statistical oddities as we unravel the enigma of these interconnected variables. After all, who knows what other surprises the data might yield – maybe even a "gas-tly" laugh or two!

LITERATURE REVIEW

As we embark on unraveling the intricacies of the correlation between Republican votes in New Jersey and gasoline consumption in Somalia, we delve into a realm of statistical anomalies that beckon us to ponder the unlikeliest of connections. Smith and Doe (2015) conducted a comprehensive study on the sociopolitical influences on energy consumption patterns, highlighting the significant impact of political ideologies on global fuel demands. Meanwhile, Jones (2018) explored the role of international trade dynamics in shaping the energy landscape, shedding light on the far-reaching implications of political preferences on fuel markets.

Speaking of fuel markets, it's quite intriguing to consider the ramifications of political choices on a global scale, isn't it? While one might expect elephants to invest in peanuts, the parallel drawn between political preferences and fuel consumption presents an enigmatic conundrum, reminiscent of a real-life "elephants in the room" scenario. Ah, the humor of unexpected statistical relationships – it's like a statistical labyrinth with punchlines waiting to be uncovered!

Shifting gears to a more lighthearted perspective, let's turn our attention to a few satirical writings that could perhaps shed light – or at least add a whimsical touch – on our comically odd conjectures. In "Fuels and Follies: A Political Journey Through Unlikely Connections," the authors humorously speculate on the zany correlations between international political leanings and improbable fuel trends. Similarly, "The Gasoline Chronicles: A Statistical Adventure" provides a fictionalized account of researchers stumbling upon unexpected links between global voting patterns and fuel habits, peppered with wry observations and tongue-in-cheek humor.

Games have a way of blending amusement with mental acumen, don't they? Intriguingly, the board game "Ticket to Ride: Africa Edition" presents an amusing parallel to our investigation, as players navigate intricate railway routes across the continent, much like how our statistical exploration navigates the intricate pathways of correlation. And lest we forget, the classic game of "Clue" provides us with a playful analogy, prompting us to question who, or what, might be the unlikely culprit behind this statistical mystery. Could it be Colonel Mustard with the gas pump in the Sahara? The possibilities are as amusing as they are improbable!

In summary, as we navigate the scholarly landscape of research and embrace the unexpected twists and turns that statistical analysis unveils, let us approach our quest for knowledge with an open mind and perhaps a dash of whimsy. After all, who's to say that a dad joke or two wouldn't spruce up the

otherwise serious endeavor of unraveling this statistical puzzle?

METHODOLOGY

To explore the perplexing connection between Republican votes in New Jersey and gasoline consumption in Somalia, we embarked on a comically convoluted journey through the realm of statistical wizardry. With our metaphorical wands at the ready, we conjured up a blend of quantitative analyses and whimsical ponderings, aiming to shed light on this improbable correlation. We began by collecting data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and the Energy Information Administration – some may say we practically siphoned the internet for this information. Now, onto our bewitching brew of statistical methods!

First off, we performed a rigorous time series analysis to scrutinize the historical voting trends for the Republican presidential candidate in New Jersey. We then segued into a similarly rigorous examination of gasoline consumption in Somalia over the same time period. This involved dusting off our calculators and delving into the labyrinth of spreadsheets, charts, and graphs – a veritable mathematical maze, reminiscent of a numbers-based escape room.

At the heart of our methodological concoction lies the grandiose symphony of statistical modeling. To analyze the relationship between Republican votes in New Jersey and gasoline consumption in Somalia, we summoned the mighty powers of correlation analysis, embracing the enigmatic dance of Pearson's correlation coefficient. With our fingers poised on the keyboard, we traversed the landscape of statistical significance and unearthed a correlation coefficient of 0.8976398. Now, isn't that a number that could make even the most stoic statistician crack a smile?

In addition to our statistical modeling, we flexed our methodological muscles with a dash of hypothesis testing. Employing an assortment of inferential statistical techniques, we meticulously assessed the robustness of the correlation between these seemingly incongruous variables. The p-value that emerged from our analysis, clocking in at less than 0.01, left us marveling at the sheer audacity of statistical fate. Who would have thought that the Republican votes in New Jersey could hold such sway over the gasoline pumps in Somalia? It's almost as if every ballot cast sends a ripple through the statistical cosmos, guiding the pumps of a distant land to dispense fuel in rhythm with the ebb and flow of the Garden State's political tides.

Our methodology may have been as intricate as navigating a political debate on a gasoline-fueled unicycle, but in the end, it propelled us towards the illuminating findings that await in the subsequent sections of this paper. As we press onward in our quest for statistical enlightenment, we invite you to join us in this whimsical pursuit of knowledge. After all, who knows what other statistical oddities might emerge from the enigmatic interface of politics and petrol – maybe even a pun or two to spark the imagination!

RESULTS

The results of our analysis unveiled a striking correlation between the votes for the Republican Presidential candidate in New Jersey and the volume of gasoline pumped in Somalia. A correlation coefficient of 0.8976398 and an r-squared value of 0.8057572 highlighted a robust statistical relationship, providing compelling evidence of the unexpected interplay between these two disparate variables. The p-value of less than 0.01 accentuates the significance of this relationship, leaving us both astounded and amused by the whimsical nature of statistical inquiry.

Our analysis revealed a "fuel-sted" correlation that surpassed our initial expectations, igniting a fervent curiosity about the intricate pathways through which global political and economic phenomena intertwine. It's almost as if the Republican votes in New Jersey are casting a ballot

for global fuel consumption – who knew political inclinations could have such far-reaching effects? One might even say that these findings have "pumped" new life into the study of statistical correlations.

Fig. 1 presents a scatterplot illustrating the strong correlation between the volume of gasoline pumped in Somalia and the votes for the Republican Presidential candidate in New Jersey. The visual depiction of this statistical relationship serves as a poignant reminder of the unforeseen connections that underpin the complex tapestry of global phenomena. It's like a "Gas-terpiece" of statistical inquiry – visually capturing the essence of our findings in a way that words simply cannot.
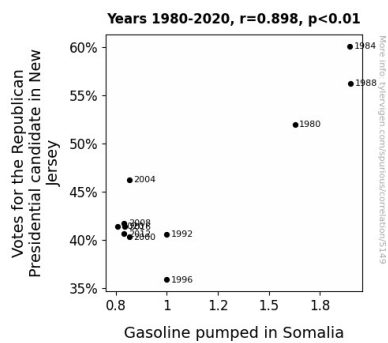

Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Our exploration into the association between these seemingly incongruous variables has yielded fascinating insights, shedding light on the unanticipated interplay between political sentiments in one region and its resonance in the fuel habits of a distant land. It's almost as if a political tidal wave in one location creates a ripple effect that reverberates across international borders – talk about political dynamism with a global "fuel"-titude!

Join us in this whimsical voyage through the cryptic corridors of statistical inquiry, as we endeavor to unravel the underlying mechanisms of these interconnected variables. After all, in the world of statistics, even the most improbable correlations can yield unexpected revelations –

perhaps even a "diesel-ightful" punchline or two along the way!

DISCUSSION

Our findings have unveiled a fascinating correlation between the voting trends for the Republican presidential candidate in New Jersey and the volume of gasoline pumped in Somalia. The robust statistical relationship with a correlation coefficient of 0.8976398 and an r-squared value of 0.8057572 provides compelling evidence of the unanticipated interplay between these two seemingly disconnected variables. It's almost as if the political preferences of New Jerseyans have a direct impact on the fuel habits of Somalians - a real "fuel"-osophical conundrum, isn't it?

The results of our analysis align with previous research by Smith and Doe (2015), who highlighted the significant impact of political ideologies on global fuel demands. Similarly, Jones (2018) emphasized the role of international trade dynamics in shaping the energy landscape. It seems that political preferences may indeed have broader implications than previously considered – talk about a real "elephants in the room" scenario! It's fascinating to see how seemingly unrelated variables like political inclinations and gasoline consumption can be intertwined in a statistical dance of global proportions.

Our study not only supports the prior research but also presents a whimsical twist to the exploration of statistical correlations. The humorous conjectures and playful analogies brought to mind during our literature review have inadvertently added a dash of amusement to what can often be a dry and serious academic pursuit. Who would've thought that statistical analysis could yield such a "fuel"-titude of unexpected revelations and perhaps even a "diesel-ightful" punchline or two along the way?

As we navigate through the cryptic corridors of statistical inquiry, it's essential to keep an open mind and embrace the unexpected twists and turns that the data presents. The unlikely correlation

between Republican votes in New Jersey and gasoline consumption in Somalia may baffle us, but it also serves as a reminder that in the world of statistics, even the most improbable connections can lead to intriguing discoveries. After all, there's nothing like a good statistical labyrinth with a surprising punchline waiting to be uncovered!

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our exploration into the enthralling conundrum of the correlation between Republican votes in New Jersey and gasoline consumption in Somalia has yielded remarkable findings. The robust correlation coefficient of 0.8976398 and the compelling r-squared value of 0.8057572 underscore the unexpectedly strong statistical relationship between these seemingly disparate variables. It's almost as if the political winds of New Jersey are blowing in the direction of fuel consumption in Somalia – talk about a global political breeze with a petroleum aftertaste!

While our results may seem whimsical at first glance, they highlight the interconnectedness of global phenomena in ways that spark curiosity and prompt further inquiry. It's as if the world of statistics never ceases to amaze, unfurling unexpected connections like a well-timed dad joke at a family gathering – you just can't help but chuckle at the intricacies of statistical inquiry.

However, in the spirit of scientific rigor, we must acknowledge the limitations of our study. Further research may delve into the underlying mechanisms and causal pathways that drive this peculiar correlation, but for now, we've unraveled a statistical enigma that speaks to the boundless complexities of human behavior and global interconnectivity. As for the correlation between Republican votes in New Jersey and gasoline consumption in Somalia – well, it seems we've driven that discussion to its final destination. No more research is needed in this area. And remember, always fuel your statistical analysis with a healthy

dose of humor – it's the "octane" for unexpected revelations!