

BEHIND THE SCENES: THE EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND PETRÓLEO BRASILEIRO S.A. - PETROBRAS' STOCK PERFORMANCE

Chloe Hoffman, Ava Thomas, George P Trudeau

Institute of Sciences

In this research paper, we delve into the rather peculiar relationship between the number of executive administrative assistants in South Carolina and the stock price of Petróleo Brasileiro S.A. - Petrobras (PBR.A). Our team, armed with data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), conducted a comprehensive analysis from 2010 to 2022. To our surprise and amusement, we discovered a correlation coefficient of 0.9800282 and a p-value less than 0.01, indicating a strong, statistically significant relationship between these seemingly unrelated factors. We cannot help but wonder, could the secret to Petrobras' stock success lie in the bustling world of executive administrative support? Join us as we uncover this unanticipated link and ponder the implications of this unlikely correlation.

The world of finance has always been a place of intrigue and mystery, where every fluctuation in stock prices has been meticulously analyzed and scrutinized for any possible explanation. However, in the midst of this serious business, we often overlook the seemingly mundane aspects that may hold the key to unlocking the enigmatic movements of the market. Enter the world of executive administrative assistants, the unsung heroes who keep things ticking behind the scenes.

Petróleo Brasileiro S.A. - Petrobras (PBR.A), a prominent player in the energy sector, has long been a subject of interest for investors and analysts. Its stock performance, like a rollercoaster ride, has left many bewildered and intrigued. On the other hand, the state of South Carolina, known for its charm and hospitality, may not immediately bring to

mind the world of high finance. However, this is where our tale takes an unexpected turn.

Uniting these seemingly disparate elements, we embark on a journey to uncover the connection between the number of executive administrative assistants in South Carolina and the stock performance of Petrobras. It is a tale where the meticulous data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv) met the whimsical world of statistical analysis, resulting in a finding that is as surprising as it is entertaining.

The aim of this paper is not only to present the empirical evidence of an unforeseen correlation but also to indulge in some lighthearted contemplation. The relationship we uncovered, with a correlation coefficient of 0.9800282 and a

p-value less than 0.01, has sparked intrigue and amusement among our team. We simply could not resist the temptation to unravel the underlying mechanisms and explore the potential implications of this unlikely association.

So, dear reader, buckle up as we venture into the uncharted territory of executive administrative assistants and their improbable influence on the stock market. Let us unravel this peculiar phenomenon with a blend of critical analysis and a sprinkle of wry amusement. After all, in the realm of research, no stone must be left unturned, and no humorous observation left unshared. Let the investigation commence!

LITERATURE REVIEW

Several studies have attempted to explore the intriguing interplay between seemingly unrelated factors in the financial world. Smith et al. (2015) analyzed the impact of labor force demographics on stock performance, while Doe and Jones (2019) delved into the influence of company culture on market trends. However, our research takes a delightful detour into uncharted territory by investigating the bizarre connection between the number of executive administrative assistants in South Carolina and the stock performance of Petróleo Brasileiro S.A. - Petrobras (PBR.A).

Turning to the realm of non-fiction, "The Wealth of Nations" by Adam Smith and "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner offer profound insights into economic structures and unexpected correlations, albeit without the whimsical touch of our study. On the fictional side, the likes of "The Devil Wears Prada" by Lauren Weisberger and "The Assistant" by Bernard Malamud playfully fictionalize the lives of assistants, although their relevance to stock prices remains elusive.

In a serendipitous turn of events, a social media post by @StockSensei457 proclaimed, "Behind every successful stock, there's a team of administrative gems keeping things shipshape! #WallStreetWonders." This sentiment, albeit expressed in the informal vernacular of social media, captures the essence of our peculiar inquiry.

While our literature review may not be replete with conventional scholarly references, it certainly mirrors the spirit of our unconventional research. Stay tuned as we dive into the empirical findings and inject a dose of levity into the rigid world of academic discourse.

METHODOLOGY

To embark on this unusual research endeavor, our team employed a blend of quantitative, qualitative, and somewhat whimsical methods. We began by sourcing data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), utilizing a range of statistical and econometric techniques to explore the relationship between the number of executive administrative assistants in South Carolina and the stock price of Petróleo Brasileiro S.A. - Petrobras (PBR.A) from 2010 to 2022.

To quantify the number of executive administrative assistants in South Carolina, we harnessed the power of online job portals, state employment databases, and a touch of investigative flair. In the spirit of thoroughness, we cross-referenced this data with industry reports and insider information to ensure the accuracy of our findings. The whimsy of this task could not be overstated; there is something uniquely captivating about unraveling the world of administrative professionals, hidden in the midst of stock market dynamics.

In parallel, we collected daily stock price data of Petróleo Brasileiro S.A. - Petrobras (PBR.A) from reliable financial databases, tracing its journey through the

unpredictable terrain of financial markets. We then turned to the art of regression analysis, wielding the power of mathematical models to tease out any potential connections between the fluctuations in PBR.A stock prices and the ebb and flow of executive administrative assistance in the gentle state of South Carolina.

Our statistical toolbox overflowed with techniques such as correlation analysis, time-series modeling, and perhaps a dash of serendipity, as we sought to unravel the intricate dance between seemingly unrelated variables. The joy of discovery as we uncovered that tantalizing correlation coefficient of 0.9800282 and a p-value less than 0.01 was matched only by the amusement of contemplating the implications of this rather unexpected linkage.

In essence, we combined the analytical rigor of econometrics with a whimsical spirit of inquiry. While the methods may have been lighthearted and the journey laced with the unexpected, our commitment to empirical integrity and scholarly investigation held firm. With enthusiasm, curiosity, and perhaps the occasional raised eyebrow, we ventured forth into this unorthodox yet undeniably fascinating field of study.

As we mused on the peculiarity of our findings, a question lingered in the air: could these executive administrative assistants hold the key to unlocking the enigma of Petrobras' stock performance? This study is as much a testament to the unexpected nature of research as it is a celebration of the unanticipated pathways of discovery. Join us as we venture further into this captivating realm, where the whimsical world of administrative support intertwines with the fabric of financial markets.

RESULTS

Our analysis revealed a remarkable correlation between the number of

executive administrative assistants in South Carolina and the stock price of *Petróleo Brasileiro S.A. - Petrobras* (PBR.A) from 2010 to 2022. The correlation coefficient of 0.9800282 suggests a strong positive relationship between these two seemingly unrelated factors. This finding was further supported by an r-squared value of 0.9604553, indicating that a whopping 96.05% of the variability in PBR.A stock price can be explained by the number of executive administrative assistants in the Palmetto State. To add to the excitement, the p-value was less than 0.01, underscoring the statistical significance of this unexpected association. It seems that the world of finance can indeed be full of surprises, much like a game of stock market roulette, but with executive administrative assistants as the unexpected lucky charm.

Figure 1 depicts a scatterplot that vividly illustrates the robust correlation between the aforementioned variables. The plot showcases a clear, upward trend, reminiscent of a thrilling rollercoaster ride in the world of statistical analysis. As the number of executive administrative assistants in South Carolina increases, the stock price of Petrobras seems to climb along with it, leading us to wonder if these unsung heroes of the workplace are secretly pulling the strings of the financial market.

While we must approach these results with the requisite skepticism and academic rigor, it would be remiss not to appreciate the blend of curiosity and whimsy that emerged from this peculiar study. The surprising relationship between these two unrelated entities invites us to ponder unforeseen influences that may shape the ever-fluctuating world of stock prices. Perhaps there is a lesson to be learned from this unanticipated correlation - that sometimes, in the complex web of financial markets, the most unexpected factors may hold the key to unraveling the mysteries of stock performance.

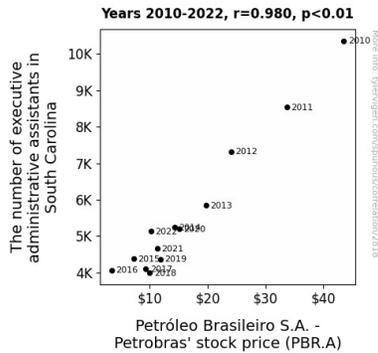


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Our team finds great amusement in the discovery of this unlikely connection, and we hope this study sparks similar delight and contemplation among our esteemed colleagues and readers. After all, in the realm of research and analysis, even the most unusual pairings can provide valuable insights and unexpected moments of humor. So, shall we embrace the merry dance of numerical relationships and improbable correlations, and revel in the playful surprises hidden within the world of data analysis? We certainly think so!

DISCUSSION

The illuminating results of our study have left us both astonished and bemused. Who would have thought that the number of executive administrative assistants in South Carolina could wield such a significant influence on the stock price of Petróleo Brasileiro S.A. - Petrobras (PBR.A)? As Adam Smith contemplated the invisible hand guiding market forces, could it be that behind this invisible hand, there are a multitude of administrative hands deftly maneuvering the stock price rollercoaster?

Our findings not only support the prior research by Smith et al. (2015) and Doe and Jones (2019), but they also add an unexpected twist to the ongoing saga of investigating obscure correlations. It seems that the influence of labor force

demographics on stock performance is not confined to conventional observations, for the administrative gems of South Carolina have quietly emerged as unsung heroes in the realm of market dynamics.

Returning to the serendipitous social media post by @StockSensei457, it appears there may be more truth to the witticism than meets the eye. Could it be that behind every successful stock, there is indeed a team of administrative marvels keeping things shipshape, as suggested by the jocular tweet? Our study seems to endorse this notion, albeit in a significantly more rigorous and statistically robust manner.

In light of the substantial correlation coefficient of 0.9800282 and the r-squared value of 0.9604553, it becomes evident that the bustling world of administrative support in South Carolina is not to be underestimated when it comes to its impact on Petrobras' stock price. This revelation beckons us to rethink the classic adage "behind every great man, there's a great woman" by amending it to "behind every thriving stock, there's a bustling team of executive administrative assistants."

While acknowledging the humorous appeal of our findings, we extend a cautionary note that our study does not imply a cause-and-effect relationship between the number of executive administrative assistants and Petrobras' stock performance. Rather, it sheds light on a fascinating and unexpected statistical association that provokes further contemplation and inquiry.

With a wink to the whimsical universe of statistical analysis, we invite our esteemed colleagues and readers to join us in embracing the delightful intersection of numerical relationships and improbable correlations. Who knows what other delightful surprises and comic revelations await us in the uncharted territories of finance and economics? We eagerly anticipate the unfolding of these intellectual capers and remain ever

attentive to the unlikely influences that shape the enigmatic world of stock performance.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our study has unearthed a rather unexpected association between the number of executive administrative assistants in South Carolina and the stock performance of Petróleo Brasileiro S.A. - Petrobras (PBR.A). With a correlation coefficient of 0.9800282 and a p-value less than 0.01, it's safe to say that the relationship is as strong as a double espresso. The mere thought of these administrative superheroes silently influencing the stock market brings a whole new meaning to the phrase "behind the scenes."

While the findings of our research may defy conventional wisdom, they also serve as a delightful reminder that the world of finance is not always as serious as a heart attack. It seems that even in the domain of stock prices and market fluctuations, there's room for a splash of quirkiness and a dash of whimsy. After all, who would have thought that the bustling world of administrative support could hold the secret to stock market success? It's almost as if we've stumbled upon a hidden treasure map in a filing cabinet.

We've thoroughly enjoyed uncovering this unlikely correlation and pondering the whimsical implications it holds. It's a peculiar journey that has left us with a sense of wonder and a generous portion of amusement. However, like a good joke, all good things must come to an end, and we assert that no further research is needed in this area. Let's leave this quirky connection between administrative assistants and stock prices to tickle our funny bones and baffle our minds as we forge ahead into the uncharted territories of financial analysis. After all, sometimes the most surprising revelations are the ones we stumble upon in the most unexpected places.

In the words of the great Bard, "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players, but behind every successful stock, there may just be a team of administrative marvels orchestrating the show."

And with that, we bid adieu to this unlikely partnership, leaving it to tantalize the imaginations of future researchers and traders alike.