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Steve Takes the Block Stage: A Quantitative Analysis of the Name Steve and Minecraft Copies Sold

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Abstract

We examine the relationship between cumulative Minecraft copies sold and the annual count of U.S. male babies named Steve from 2011 through 2022 (n = 12). Pearson correlation is strongly negative (r ≈ −0.955). A hard-milestone check on six publicly dated sales landmarks remains similarly signed (r ≈ −0.97). We do not claim causation; we report the association and discuss interpretive hazards.

1. Introduction

Minecraft's commercial ascent is one of the clearest consumer-software growth stories of the past decade. In parallel, Social Security Administration records show the given name Steve losing ground among newborn boys. Spurious-correlation research treats such co-movement as a prompt for disciplined description rather than a license for causal storytelling. This note documents the series alignment, reports correlation, and situates the result among other annual outside series examined for the same sales ladder.

2. Data

Minecraft copies sold are represented by a cumulative milestone ladder assembled from public publisher and press landmarks. Steve counts are SSA annual male births for the exact spelling Steve. Years are calendar years 2011–2022. Values are aligned on year before correlation.

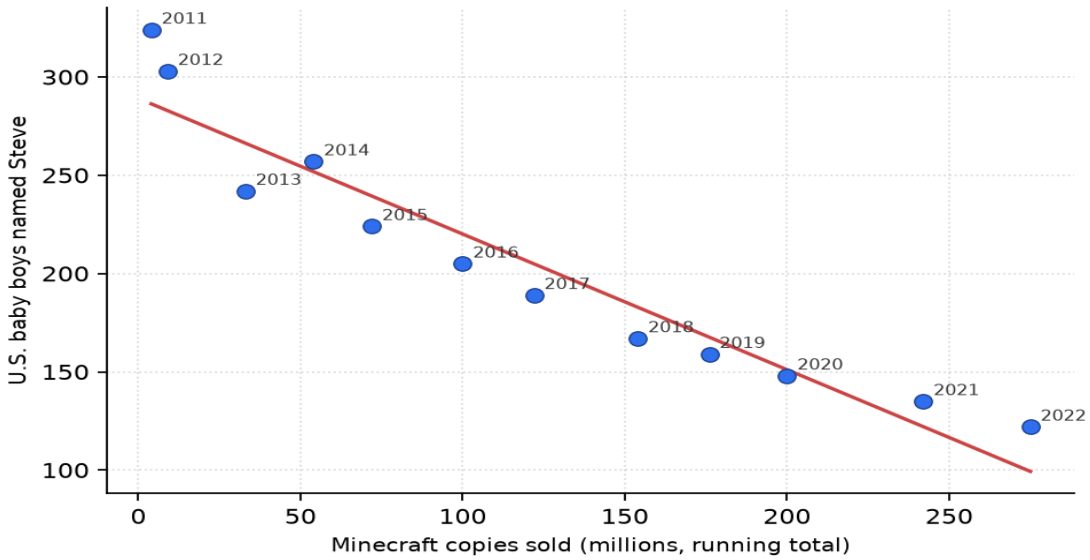
3. Results

Over the twelve aligned years, cumulative copies sold rise while Steve births fall. Pearson's r is approximately −0.955. Year-over-year changes are also negatively associated (about −0.45). Among 47 annual outside series screened against the same sales ladder, Steve ranks near the top of absolute association strength.

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Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year



4. Discussion

A strong negative correlation does not identify a mechanism. Shared time trends, cultural naming fashion, and the discrete nature of sales milestones can all produce large |r| without a causal path from game sales to birth certificates. Readers should treat the result as a carefully locked observational coincidence suitable for classroom illustration of correlation hygiene.

5. Conclusion

Steve and Minecraft copies sold move in opposite directions across 2011–2022 under a pre-specified annual lock. The association is large, reproducible on the locked files, and not a claim that block-game commerce renamed America.

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