

ABSTRACT

A Study of the Jamaican Construction Sector and its Performance Since Independence (1962-2000)

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The local construction sector is a significant contributor to social and economic growth and development in any country, whether poor, middle-income or rich. The aims and objectives of this study is to carry out a detailed analysis and assessment of Jamaica's construction and installation industrial sector classification, its impact on and performance inter-relationships with gross domestic product (GDP) output/performance over the post-independence period 1962-2000 (thirty-eight years).

The study looks at the macro-economic perspective within a framework identified by international agencies in their studies and analyses. This is based on a comparison of the long term trends and short term business cyclical fluctuations

or patterns of domestic economic activity and output/performances of both the local construction sector and total domestic product as measured by GDP.

The research design, therefore, was one that concentrated on tracking the performances of and inter-relationships between selected but comprehensive categories of forward-linked value added outputs, backward-linked resource inputs and independent macro-economic variables operating in the Jamaican economy. The methodology employed looked at the sector's output/performances in relation to total output/performances in the respective categories. Data tabulation along with the development of dynamic models that illustrated the performance inter-relationships between the variables graphically was used to elucidate, analyse and validate selected hypotheses.

The study has found that performance inter-relationships of both main variables follow the general trend of international agency analyses. However, the peculiar characteristics suggest that the Jamaican economy is still in the "developing" status, with a high construction sector contribution to total domestic product output over the extended time frame of the study. In the final analysis, the local construction sector is definitely a key contributor to and benefactor of economic growth and the development process as measured by the variables tracked in the study.

Keywords: George Garbett Jankee; Construction sector output/performance; Performance inter-relationships with gross domestic product output/performance.