

ABSTRACT**Problems with the Construction of an Input-Output Table for Trinidad and Tobago**

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This study attempts to investigate the relationship between sectoral linkages and levels of growth within the Trinidad and Tobago economy. The first input-output (I/O) table for the Trinidad and Tobago economy was constructed as far back as 1962 by the Central Statistical Office (CSO). Since that time no detailed attempt has been made to study the nature of inter-industry linkages in Trinidad and Tobago.

The present study is the first major attempt to investigate the sectoral linkages and levels of growth within the Trinidad and Tobago economy. It utilises the ideas from the Best/Levitt plantation model and the writings of Herschman, Rostow and Schumpeter about the role linkages play in the process of economic growth and development.

This thesis has constructed a bench-marked I/O table for the Trinidad and Tobago economy for the year 1987 and it has utilised the table to compare backward and forward linkage indices with the year 1962 when the first I/O table was built. This study concluded that there was little, if at all, any structural change in the economy in 1987 when compared to 1962. In addition, linkages remained relatively weak in most sectors of the economy.

To continue carefully studying the structure of linkages in the Trinidad and Tobago economy, the thesis made a number of recommendations to address several weaknesses in the current structure of the CSO, which at present hinders meaningful construction of I/O tables.

Key words: Earl Timothy Boodoo, input-output analysis, backward linkages, forward linkages, plantation school, economic development.