

ABSTRACT

A Statistical Methodology for Deriving Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Estimates for the Island-Region of Tobago, 1997 – 2004

Desmond Rodriguez Perry

Prior to the Tobago Census of Establishments 1997, no formal attempts were made to compile Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates for the island-region economy of Tobago. As a result, Tobago lacks critical data on the activities of the resident economic agents and productive units in its local jurisdiction and for strategic planning. This thesis seeks to develop consistent annual estimates of GDP for the island-region of Tobago for the period 1997 to 2004 using data from the Value Added Tax (VAT) Information System, sample surveys and other secondary data sources. These annual sets are combined with leading indicators from the tourism and government sectors to derive quarterly GDP estimates using the Chow-Lin method. The results of this thesis point to the important contribution that services (especially General Government, Construction, Distribution and Hotels and Guest Houses) make to the island-region economy of Tobago. This may serve as an important platform for greater diversification of the Trinidad and Tobago economy.

Keywords: Desmond Rodriguez Perry; Gross Domestic Product; Value Added; National Accounts; Chow-Lin.