

## ABSTRACT

The building materials industry is actually a conglomeration of industries whose products are mainly inputs to the construction sector. The linkages between the industry and the rest of the economy together with its ability to block or facilitate industrial growth and to provide jobs and better living conditions for a large segment of the population makes the industry a worthy target for development.

In this project report, the author examines the manufacturing infrastructure, the nature of building materials usage, and the available resources for the production of building materials in Trinidad and Tobago. Trends in the prices of both imported and locally produced building materials together with levels of consumption and imports are then analysed in a historical context to develop relationships between these factors and general economic indicators.

The role that government should play in the development of the industry is also discussed as well as the strategy that should be formulated to take account of the under-utilization of capacity that exists in the industry at present. The strategy put forward for future development of the industry recommends small to medium scale enterprises operated by the private sector and utilizing various ratios of labour to capital.

Finally the role of research and development and the beneficial effects of standardization on the industry was examined. Priority areas of research and development in the building materials industry were stated as well as evidence in monetary terms of the economic benefits of formulating and implementing appropriate national and international standards.

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