

Most of the energy-based industry is being developed at Point Lisas, an industrial park south of Port-of-Spain. The manufacturing sector has grown creditably over the last few years and was given an additional spurt by the coming on stream at Point Lisas of the Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago (ISCOTT), and Fertilizers of Trinidad and Tobago (FERTRIN) in the latter half of 1981. The ISCOTT complex was formally inaugurated in June 1981. Using imported iron ore, the complex produces direct reduced iron pellets, manufactured billets and wire rod for both domestic and international markets. FERTRIN, which is a joint venture between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and AMOCO International, commenced new production of ammonia in September 1981. Other developments will add methanol and urea production to the nation's major industries. Faced with reduced revenues, the Trinidadian Government is currently reconsidering the merits of proceeding with several further major capital projects - the upgrading of the TRINTOC refinery, an LNG plant and an aluminum refinery. It is expected that some spin-off industries will develop on completion of the major energy-based projects. Some metal transforming factories have started using local steel products. The Industrial Development Corporation is currently building factory shells in anticipation of such industries. Smaller scale industry includes car assembly, concrete products, radio and television assembly, rum distilling, textile products, footwear and asphalt production. Performance of the manufacturing sector (excluding oil and sugar production) has in recent years accounted for under 7% of GDP.

Construction:

Strong growth continues in the construction sector which accounted for over 10% of GDP in 1981. This growth is expected to continue in 1982, despite bottlenecks caused by shortages of raw materials (particularly cement) and skilled manpower. Projects in the planning and construction stages include public and private sector housing developments, a regional hospital system, a network of national warehouses, numerous government offices and private office buildings, and a variety of essential infrastructure upgrading projects. In recent years, government construction projects have accounted for 80% of construction activity. The construction sector currently contributes approximately 20% of employment.

Government-to-Government Projects:

Several years ago, the government of Trinidad signed a number of bilateral agreements with countries such as Canada, the U.K. and France to enlist foreign government expertise in the upgrading and expansion of its infrastructure. Those in which Canada became involved were the planning and some interim work on the two major airports and the planning and construction of Golden Grove Prison Complex. In light of decreased government revenues, Prime Minister Chambers commissioned a review of all Government-to-Government projects which resulted in a number of projects being cancelled or deferred for further review. It is still unclear what effect this decision will have on the airports project. Planning and construction of the prison project is proceeding.