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Journal of Operations Management

Volume 16, Issue 1, January 1998, Pages 21-41

Developing measures of time-based manufacturing

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[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0272-6963\(97\)00027-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0272-6963(97)00027-2)

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Abstract

Case and industry studies have increased our understanding of time-base manufacturing and focused our attention on its key component practices. Despite important contributions by Blackburn (1991) and Stalk and Hout (1990), we lack a clear definition of time-based manufacturing and its relationship to Just-in-time (JIT). This study proposes a framework for research on time-based manufacturing, reports on the development of a set of seven instruments for measuring the key practices, and tests relationships among these practices. The instruments are valid, reliable, and generalizable across industries and firm size. Tests of the structural model confirm Monden's (1983) notion that shop-floor employee involvement leads to improved manufacturing practices which, in turn, lead to pull production.



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Keywords

Empirical research; Operations strategy; Measurement and methodology; Time-based manufacturing (just-in-time)

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