



January 2019

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Uses and Benefits of Lean Six Sigma

Though Lean and Six Sigma sprouted in the U.S. during the 1980s and grew in popularity during the 1990s, their contemporary uses and benefits are more relevant than ever. Lean principles focus on identifying, reducing, and eliminating waste in business processes in order to flow products and services based on customer demand. Lean reduces operating costs, speeds processes, and results in improved quality. Six Sigma is a robust approach to solving problems based on data-driven analysis and decision-making, with a universal focus on providing customers with what they want. The pursuit of eliminating mistakes (defects) links Lean and Six Sigma. Used together and properly applied, these complementary disciplines produce tremendous benefits for all stakeholders.

Uses of Lean Six Sigma

Uses of Lean Six Sigma are virtually unbound and can be applied to any industry, function, or process in both manufacturing and service organizations. Some examples include:

- Anything preventing organizational goals and objectives from being achieved
- Cost savings by identifying where product and service resources are being wasted
- Financial readiness to endure potential economic volatility and operating cycles
- Ensuring regulatory compliance amid complexity and competing time demands
- Preparing for ISO or other quality certifications, including employee safety
- Measuring the performance of processes to determine if they are in control, and isolating and rooting out causes of instability
- Objectively identifying, quantifying, and improving the critical factors affecting overall business financial performance

- Organizational leaders have a “gut feeling” that product or service issues exist but want to verify, quantify, then root out the causes
- Strengthening competitiveness by consistently producing and delivering customer quality requirements more quickly
- Designing new products and expediting time to market at a lower cost

The application of Lean Six Sigma in the information age is an exceptional pairing due to its time-tested effectiveness and strategic value-creating benefits.

Benefits of Lean Six Sigma

Lean Six Sigma produces a broad range of financial and non-financial benefits for the organization and its customers. Some examples include:

- Improving profitability
- Saving time (for customer and the business)
- Improving quality desired by customers
- Earning/retaining a competitive advantage
- Linking enterprise-wide processes, breaking down siloes, and eliminating “fire-fighting”
- Avoiding unwelcomed “surprises”
- Making happier, healthier, more relaxed, and more productive employees at all levels
- Supporting your mission and achieving your vision

Lean Six Sigma benefits are achieved by ensuring that the right resources are doing the right things at the right time, flowing customer value on demand.

Conclusion

When properly applied, Lean Six Sigma provides a logical and structured pathway to tackle virtually any business problem, and yields realistic, value-creating benefits sought by stakeholders.

Key Takeaway

Lean Six Sigma is an epic key to unlocking breakthrough performance and benefits, and can be applied to any industry, function, or process. An added benefit is that you can start at any time.

Are We a Good Fit?

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