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'Lean Principles' Drive Value

Just-in-time (JIT and JIT2) and the Toyota Production System (TPS) are time-tested approaches that minimize and eliminate forms of waste while improving quality in both professional service and manufacturing businesses. Businesses that adopt a culture of continuous improvement and build a collaborative system of trusted teams and suppliers will see real results.

Just-in-time (JIT)

A concept developed by Kiichiro Toyoda in Japan, JIT is a management philosophy that addresses waste by producing "only what is needed, when it is needed, and in the amount needed." This constant state of matching supply with demand requires high levels of quality at each step and strong vendor relationships. Results include improvements in productivity, efficiency, and the balance sheet.

Just-in-time 2 (JIT2)

JIT2 was developed by Bose Corporation and extends JIT by building a partnership that brings strategic suppliers into a business' purchasing office full-time. This team-based approach encourages collaboration in design and engineering, and results in improved customer focus, quality, and cost savings.

Toyota Production System (TPS)

TPS is a team-culture system that utilizes JIT and borrows Henry Ford's assembly-line ideas, in addition to continuous observation and analysis that results in better products and services, faster turnaround times, and lower costs. TPS principles are designed to:

- Establish standards of how work is done
- Balance production to meet demand
- Employ visual work-monitoring displays
- Prevent defects from occurring
- Empower employees to stop workflows if a defect is identified
- Directly observe where work is completed and continuously improve the value stream
- Prevent systems problems from occurring

Collaboration and Continuity

JIT, JIT2, and TPS produce results when implemented properly. It is worth the investment in building deep supplier relationships and to engage them in continuity plans that identify, assess, and mitigate potential disruptions using a collaborative team-approach. Thoughtfully constructing a robust Failure Modes and Effects Analysis (FMEA) and reviewing it regularly will empower you to manage potential risk and create continuity in your offerings. We can help.

Conclusion

When used properly, JIT, JIT2, and TPS principles enable businesses to do more with less, strengthen teams and financial results, and produce quality customer offerings more quickly. Building a collaborative system of employee empowerment, dependable supplier relationships, and contingency planning are key.

Key Takeaway

Empowered, demand-driven, and continuous improvement team cultures that forge strategic and tactical supplier ties create long-term value.

We produce business results by customizing solutions that ensure the right people and resources are doing the right things at the right time. This translates into happier customers, a better bottom line, and peace of mind. Let's build business together. ROI is guaranteed.

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