

# Lean and Six Sigma: a Comparative Study

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## Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to compare and contrast Lean and Six Sigma organizational approaches. This is an important area of study because although, theoretically, there are differences between Lean and Six Sigma, they can be compatible and comparable in practice. Organizations can benefit from the integration of Lean and Six Sigma, as both are effective methods of continual improvement. Although both are effective tools for implementing continuous improvement, when combined they are all the more successful. This paper therefore compares and contrasts Lean and Six Sigma with a view to illustrating their effectiveness separately and together. Thus this paper will identify the weaknesses and strengths of both Lean and Six Sigma and the ways in which they compliment each other.

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