

Reduction in unemployment and underemployment:

With regional integration, there will be free movement of labour and capital; hence, business organisations will be able to utilise the best available human and physical resources and thus become more efficient and competitive. Production costs will be lower and potential for expansion will increase, therefore employment opportunities will increase.

Better response to implications of globalisation and trade liberalisation

Integration offers better prospects for the region when dealing with the implications of globalisation and trade liberalisation because the greater economies of scale produced would result in more competitive costs of production and more competitive prices for goods on the world market. At the same time, the region would become a bigger local market for Caribbean producers, making them less reliant on the market in a single country or on trade with richer, more powerful nations

Improvement in quality of life:

Governments will be able to work cooperatively and share economic, social and political best practices to avoid duplication of expenditure. If the governments across the region can save on expenditure, it means that more money will be available for areas that directly affect people's quality of life, such as education and health. Additionally, with increased levels of employment, the standard of living and quality of life will improve for the majority of the populations.

Reduction in the inequality of wealth distribution;

Regional integration will help to improve the economic development of the region which will see greater equality in the distribution of wealth. This can be achieved through:

- the flow of financial resources from more developed countries to less developed countries in the region;
- payment of higher salaries and wages for most of the population, resulting in the governments receiving more tax revenue;
- increase in the population's spending power (disposable income) – this will help to stimulate economic growth;
- the provision of adequate welfare services for the more vulnerable members of society

Free movement of goods, labour and capital:

This will benefit both local and regional markets as people will have access to a wide array of goods; employers will have a large pool of human resource at their disposal; job aspirants will have more opportunities for employment; and with the free movement of capital there should be greater investment opportunities in the region

Free movement of goods, labour and capital

Successfully growing the economy and improving employment levels depends largely on the ability to move goods, raw materials, labour and capital around the region.

Increased market size

Having the Caribbean region as an accessible market opens up many opportunities for businesses that would be unable to generate sufficient revenue if they relied solely on the market represented by the population of their home country.

Improved levels of international competitiveness

Pooling resources, sharing expenditures and avoiding duplication are some benefits of integration that will help to lower production costs for Caribbean producers, manufacturers and service providers. This will help them to offer their goods and services on the world market at competitive prices.

Expansion of trade

Trade expansion, where there is diversification of products available to broader markets, is often seen as a key to greater economic growth. Regional integration will contribute to the possibilities of trade expansion because:

- the region as a whole becomes a market for goods and services originating from within the region
- the region is able to trade more effectively on the world market.

Increased cooperation among member states

Regional integration will result from, and contribute to, increased cooperation. Cooperation between nation states is necessary if the objectives of greater coordination and less duplication of effort are to be achieved.