# Examining Selected Business Factors Determining Access to Black Business Supplier Development Programme Funding in South Africa

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Abstract:- This paper examines selected business factors determining access to Black Business Supplier Development Programme (BBSDP) funding in South Africa over the financial period 2011/12 to 2014/15. Raw data was sourced from the BBSDP database. Approved amount (AM) was the dependent variable while turnover amount prior to application (TA), number of employees in the previous year (NE), and distinct amounts required for tools and machinery (TM), business development (BD), and training (TR) were used as covariates in the model. Weighted estimation regression through the origin in Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) statistical program was applied for statistical analysis. Estimated results indicate that turnover prior to application, and the distinct amounts required for tools and machinery, business development, and training purposes, all had statistically significant positive effects on the amounts approved for firms during the period under review. In conclusion, the paper recommends that Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) need to focus on investing in tools and machineryand business development as well as increasing their turnover levels in order to improveaccess to government funding.

Key words:- BBSDP, SMEs, Service Sector, Manufacturing Sector, and South Africa

## I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The importance of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in South Africais witnessed in terms of the contribution towardsthe gross domestic product (GDP) and employment creation across numerous sectors of the economy. Although SMEs contribute as little as 25 percent to capital formation compared to large enterprises, it is noticeable that they have a major socioeconomic role to play in the country. It was estimated by the Task Group of the Policy Board for Financial Services and Regulation that, the contribution of SMEs to GDP in South Africa stands at more than 50 percent, while the contribution to employment stands at more than 60 percent (Falkena, Abedian, Blottnitz, Coovadia, Davel, Madungandaba, Masilela, &Rees, 2013:13). Though there are many sectors that contribute to the economy's growth, this study focuses particularly on access to the BBSDP funding by SMEs in the services sector (non-financial) and manufacturing sector. With the annual GDP growth rate standingat 1.3 percent in 2015, the contributions by the services sector (19.6 percent) and manufacturing sector (12.6 percent) to the real GDP (Statistics South Africa, 2016) demonstrate the importance of the respective sectors in the economy. The services sector firms covered in this study are those that fall in the categories of non-financial business servicessuch as, security firm, computer services, legal services, accounting and bookkeepingand real estate firm.

In South Africa, SMEs are defined with reference to the number of employees or to the turnover bands or a combination of both, as prescribed in the National Small Business Act, 1996. Section 1 of National Small Business Act of 1996, as amended by the National Small Business Amendment Acts of 2003 and 2004, officiallydefines a small business as "a separate and distinct business entity, including co-operative enterprises and nongovernmental organisations, managed by one owner or more, which, including its branches or subsidiaries, if any, is predominantly carried on in any sector or sub-sector of the economy mentioned in Column I of the Schedule". The small businesses are further categorised by the Act into distinct groups, namely survivalist, micro, very small, small, and medium. According to the Act, a small enterprise is one that has fewer than 50 employees, anannual turnover of less than R2 million to R25 million, and gross assets (excluding fixed property) less than R2 million to R25 million.

R2 million to R4.5 million, depending on the industry. Moreover, a medium enterprise is one that has fewer than

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100 200 employees, annual turnover less than to an of R4 to R5 million and assets (excluding million gross fixed property) of less than R2 million and R18 million, depending on industry (NCR, 2011).

Against the backdrop of stagnation in turnover and employment growth experienced by SMEs in the country, the Black Business Supplier Development Programme (BBSDP) was introduced by the Department of Trade and Industry under the auspices of the World Bank during 2002. Currently under administration by the Department of Small Business Development (DSBD) since 2014, the BBSDP was implemented to address the constraints faced by black-owned SMEs and at the same time, broadening the activities eligible for assistance and increasing the level of funding support. The BBSDP (2010) defines a black enterprise as "a business owned by at least 51 percent of South African black people". It goes further to define the supplier enterprise as "an individual or enterprise that renders a service (in terms of the approved interventions and/or activities to an approved BBSDP beneficiary) and ensures that the successful claim of an approved intervention is submitted". According to the Department of Small Business Development (DSBD, 2010), the BBSDP is a cost-sharing grant offered to black-owned small enterprises with the aim to assist such enterprises in improving their competitiveness and sustainability, and ensuring integration into the main economy. The grants are provided up to a maximum value of R800 000 for tools, machinery, and equipment, and R200 000 for business development and training interventions per eligible enterprise. The major goal of such grants is to improve corporate governance, marketing, management, productivity, and use of modern technology. Through the multiplier effect, the programme's outcomes are to improve sustainability of black-owned enterprises and increasing employment. In order to be eligible for the grants, the enterprise should be predominantly black-owned by at least 51 percent of black South African citizens, have a predominantly black management team (50 percent), have an annual turnover of R250 000 thousandto R35 million, be registered with the South African Revenue Service (SARS) for VAT if applicable, and be able to provide a valid tax clearance certificate and VAT registration number, and have been operating and trading as a registered and tax-complaint enterprise for a period of at least one financial year.

#### 1.1 Problem statement

The value of SMEs remains highly recognised in many economies global-wide, irrespective of the economy's developmental stage. Their contribution towards economic growth and job creation remains an essential ingredient for socioeconomic development. Anchored on the perspective that small business is big business in South Africa, lack of access to finance remains the critical challenge for many SMEs in the economy (Kumah & Omilola, 2014; Mago & Toro 2013; Xiang &Worthington, 2013; Ferreira, Strydom, & Nieuwenhuizen, 2010). Despite all the initiatives made to stimulate SMEs' growth and sustainability during the post-apartheid epoch, Kumah andOmilola (2014) indicate that the growth of SMEs remains obstinately anaemic. Access to government financing remained a significant challenge for most SMEs in the economy.

#### 1.2 Research objective

In light of the problem statement indicated above, the objective of this research study was to examine selected business factors determining access to BBSDP funding over the financial period 2011/12 to 2014/15.

#### 1.3 Research question

What are the impacts of selected business factors determining access to BBSDP funding over the financial period 2011/12 to 2014/15?

#### II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The role of SMEs in the socioeconomic growth and development of a nation cannot be overemphasized. With the objective of analysing alternative models of SME financing, Akorsu andAgyapong (2012) found that inappropriate risk management, moral hazard, and possible adverse selection were the factors that limited SMEs' access to financing from both the private sector and government. Abdulsaleh andWorthington (2013) reported that the financial behaviour and practices of SMEs are a significant factor that determines SMEs' access to funding sustainable growth and development in the respective sectors they operate. Most SMEs in developing countries have very limited access to deposits, credit facilities, and other financial services provided by both the government and formal private financial institutions (Mazanai & Fatoki, 2011; Mago & Toro, 2013). In the study towards establishing an alternative model for financing SMEs in Ghana, against the background of lenders being cynical in advancing credit to SMEs, Akorsu (2012) found that inappropriate risk, potential adverse selection, and moral hazard limit SMEs' access to credit. In that respect, Akorsu (2012) reported that the development of a SME Network Fund could be a lucrative alternative for a self-managed fund to finance with minimum requirements such as collateral security. The fund can technically comprise of private investors, state contributions such as venture capital funds and international donors.

In emphasising the importance of access to financing for SMEs'sustainable growth, innovation, facilitation of new business creation, and profitability, Abdulsaleh andWorthington (2013) undertook some literature survey to explore the influence of the financial behaviours of SMEs' owners or managers to different financing sources.

The respective study reported that the industrial sector within which SMEs operate has significant influence on access to financing, and further explains the capital structure and financial decisions. In that respect, Abdulsaleh andWorthington (2013) found that firms in the services sector differ from firms operating in manufacturing or construction in terms of financial needs, decisions, and probabilities of access to financing. A previous, similar study by Michaelas, Chittenden, and Poutziouris (1999) analysed determinants of the capital structures across time and industrial sectors using a sample of three thousand five hundred (n = 3500) randomly selected SMEs across ten industrial sectors in the United Kingdom. The study found that industrial sectors, as well as the asset structures and capital requirements, influence SMEs' access to financing.

Similarly, Abor (2007) found that industrial sector classification has a significant influence on the capital structure, funding preferences, and access to funding by Ghanaian SMEs across industries. For instance, the study found that SMEs in the agricultural sector have relatively easy access to funding and they rely more on short-term debt than counterpart firms do in the manufacturing sectors that rely more on long-term financing with limited access to funding. Using the binary logistic regression approach, Le (2012) assessed the influence of firm and financial characteristics in terms of credit worthiness and industrial sector classification in the access to funding and probability of SMEs in Vietnam. The study found and confirmed that industrial sector classification had asignificant influence on SMEs' access to funding relative to creditworthiness. Technically, the odds to access to funding for firms operating in the manufacturing sector were higher than the odds of firms operating in the services sector. In examining the influence of access to credit on growth of SMEs in Ho Municipality of Volta Region in Ghana, Ahiawodzi andAdade (2012) surveyed a sample of seventy eight (n = 78) in the manufacturing sector. Results from the econometric estimation revealed that the annual turnover of SMEs in the manufacturing sector have a significant effect on access to funding.

#### III. METHODOLOGY AND ESTIMATION TECHNIQUE

#### 3.1 Data preparation

The raw data extracted from the Black Business Supplier Development Programme (BBSDP) database was sorted in MS Excel file. The approved amount values were subtracted from the application totalvalues to determine the difference between theappliedand the approvedvalues. For cases whereapproved amounts exceeded application amounts, negative differences were found, indicating unrealistic values. The "IF" logic function was used to assign binary codes 0 and 1 to realistic and unrealistic values respectively. From the sample of 833 cases, seven of them were detected unrealistic and eliminated from the dataset for analysis, leaving 826 valid cases. The approved amounts were divided by the application values to derive the percentages of approved amounts, which were further assigned binary codes for which 0 represents less than 50 percent approved amounts.

#### 3.2 Statistical analysis

The SPSS version 21 for windows was used to perform statistical analysis. Cross-tabulation based frequencies, descriptive statistics, and weighted least squares linear regression through the origin, were conducted in the analysis.

#### **3.2.1** Descriptive statistics

Descriptive statistics, which include minimum, maximum, sum, mean, standard deviation, standard error of the mean, and variance, were computed for the number of employees, approved amount, turnover prior to application, and amounts required for tools and machinery, business development, and training at sector levels.

#### 3.2.2 Weighted least squares regression

The weighted least squares linear regression through the origin was performed to determine the effects of turnover amount prior to application of additional capital, number of employees, and the amounts required for each distinct specific purpose, namely tools and machinery, business development, and training. Weight estimation was applied based on the rationale of high variability in application amounts across sectors. Therefore, since the application valuewas the source of heteroscedasticity, linear regression through the origin was done using weighting by application cost.

The stepwise criterion was applied to determine factors that had statistically significant effects access to additional capital for which the "approved amount" was used as the proxy for access to additional capital. The estimation model was specified as below:

Appr\_Amt 
$$it = \tilde{\beta}_1 (TA_{it}) + \tilde{\beta}_2 (TM_{it}) + \tilde{\beta}_3 (BD_{it}) + \tilde{\beta}_4 (TR_{it}) + \tilde{\beta}_5 (NE_{it}) + \epsilon_{it}$$

Where: Appr\_Amt is the approved amount, TA denotes the turnover amount prior to application, TM represents

the amount required for tools and machinery, BD symbolises the amount required for business development, TR represents the amount required for training, and NE denotes the number of employees in the firm. While the Appr\_Amt is the dependent variable, number of employees, turnover prior to application, and distinct amounts required for tools and machinery, business development, and training were the independent variables in the model. The  $\beta$ s represent the estimated coefficients at 95% confidence interval. The same model was further run at sectoral level to determine the influence of the each covariate on approved amount of additional capital in each distinct sector.

#### IV. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

This section provides results on descriptive statistics and weighted least squares regression analysis performed.

#### 4.1 Descriptive Statistics

Results on descriptive statistics presented in this section include minimum and maximum values, the sum, mean, standard deviations, standard error of the mean and variances for number of employees, approved amount, turnover prior to application and amounts required for tools and machinery, business development, and training, for the entire dataset across all sectors and at sectoral level.

Based on the minimum and maximum statistics in Table 1, the least amount of turnover prior to applicationwas R173 886, while the highest amount was R34 768 700. Between the financial years 2011/12 to 2014/15 period, a total of R336 262 687 was approved for all the 826 firms across the sectors for distinct specific purposes. The minimum amount approved was R6 316, while the highest amount was R1 596 100 during the period under review. From the sum of R336 262 687 additional capital approved, R278 549 284 was for tools and machinery, R50 743 781 was for business development, and R2 074 548 was earmarked for training purposes. Some firms did not make applications for additional capital towards tools and machinery, business development, and training.

From the total 826 firms, one firm obtained approval of the highest capital amount of R6 250 000 for tools and machinery, while the highest amounts approved for business development and training for two firms amounted to R945 024 and R165 032 respectively. Based on average statistics, each firm on average obtained R407 097 during the period under review. The average amounts spent by each firm on tools and machinery, business development, and training were R278 549 284, R50 743 781, and R2 074 548 respectively. The standard deviations show that the amounts of additional capital approved and the amounts approved for tools and machinery, and business development across firms were highly dispersed from the mean amount. Correspondingly, the variance statistics for approved amounts, as well as all the purposes for which the amounts were approved, exhibit high variability across firms. In relation to employment numbers, one firm had the least number of one employee, while the other firm had the highest number of 508 employees. As shown in Table 2,the highestaverage approved additional capital amounting to R447 244.64 during the financial year periods 2011/12 to 2014/15 was made for firms in the manufacturing sector,followed by an average approved amount of R407 519.48to the services sector. For tools and machinery, the largestaverage amount of R379 249.19 was approved for firms in the manufacturing sector,followed by R336 518.86 for firms in the services sector.

#### 4.3 Weighted least squares regression

#### 4.3.1 Both (Services and Manufacturing) sectors

Based on model 4, theAdjusted R-Square results in Table 3, 70.1% overall variation in the approved amount was accounted for by turnover prior to application, number of employees, and the amount required for tools and machinery, and business development. The Durbin Watson statistic (DW = 2.016) indicates an absence of autocorrelation in the model.

Model 4 results in Table 4indicate that turnover prior to application and the distinct amounts required for tools and machinery, business development, and training purposes all had statistically significant positive effects on the amounts approved for firms during the financial years period 2011/12 to 2014/15. The *t*-statistics and corresponding estimated coefficients show that the amount required for tools and machinery had the highest significant positive effect on the amount approved,followed by turnover prior to application. The amount required for business development demonstrated a significant positive effect on the approved amount while the number of employees had the least significant but positive effect on the approved amount.

Based on estimated coefficients, for every 1% rise in the amount required to be spent on tools and machinery, about 0.48% additional capital was approved towards the total approved amount. Similarly, for every 1% increase in turnover prior to application, nearly 0.33% of the total amount applied for was approved. Moreover, a 1% rise in the amount required for business development leads to about 0.18% increase in the total amount approved, while for every 1% increase in the number of employees in firms, there was a corresponding increase of about 0.09% in the total amount approved during 2011/12 to 2014/15 financial years period.

#### 4.4 Sector level analysis

The weighted least squares regression through the origin was conducted for sectors with firms whose sample sizes were considered large for inferential purposes based on the best statistical principles and practices. Based on the standard statistical principles, a sample size less than 30 is considered small. In this study, only the services sector (n = 714) and manufacturing sector (n = 85) had large sample sizes.

#### 4.4.1 Services Sector

Model 3 Adjusted R-Square results in Table 5 show that about 68% overall variation in the approved amount was accounted for by turnover prior to application, number of employees, and the amount required for tools and machinery, and business development. The Durbin Watson statistic (DW = 1.997) designates an absence of autocorrelation in the model.

The *t*-statistics in Table 6indicate that the amount required for tools and machinery had the uppermost significant positive influenceon the amount approved,followed by turnover prior to application. The amount required for business development demonstrated the least significant but positive effect on the approved amount. The corresponding estimated coefficients show that for every 1% upsurge in the amount required for spending on tools and machinery, about0.48% additional capital was approved towards the total approved amount. Congruently, for every 1% rise in turnover prior to application, nearly 0.36% of the total amount applied for was approved. Finally, a 1% rise in the amount required for business development led to approximately0.20% increase in the total amount approved for firms in the services sectorduring the period under review.

#### 4.4.2Manufacturing Sector

Based on model 3, the Adjusted R-Square results in Table 7, approximately 81.7% overall variation in the approved amount was accounted for by turnover prior to application, and the amount required for tools and machinery, and business development. The Durbin Watson statistic (DW = 2.065) exhibits absence of autocorrelation in the model. Table 8 model 3t-statistics results show that the turnover prior to application amount had the highest significant positive effect on the amount approved, followed by the amounts required for tools and machinery, and lastly business development. The coefficients show that for every1% increase in turnover prior to application, about0.49% of the total amount applied for was approved. Correspondingly, every 1% rise in the amount required to be spent on tools and machinery led to approximately0.44% increase in the total approved amount. Lastly, a 1% rise in the amount required for purposes of business development led to about 0.12% increase in the total amount approved during the period 2011/12 to 2014/15.

## V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## 5.1 Conclusion

The objective of this study was to examine selected business factors determining access to BBSDP funding over the financial period 2011/12 to 2014/15. With particular focus on SMEs in the services sector and manufacturing sector, the estimated results indicate that turnover prior to application and the different amounts required for tools and machinery, business development, and training purposes, all had statistically significant positive effects on the amounts approved for SMEs during the financial periods 2011/12 to 2014/15. The estimated coefficients indicate that for every 1% increase in the amount required to be spent on tools and machinery, about 0.48% additional capital was approved towards the total approved amount. Correspondingly, for every 1% increase in turnover prior to application, nearly 0.33% of the total amount applied for was approved. Moreover, a 1% rise in the amount required for business development leads to about 0.18% increase in the total amount approved, while for every 1% increase in the number of employees in firms, there was a corresponding rise of about 0.08% in the total amount approved during the period 2011/12 to 2014/15.

## 5.2 Recommendations

Given thefindings that turnover prior to application and the distinct amounts required for tools and machinery, business development, and training purposes had statistically significant positive effects on amounts approved for SMEs, it is important that SMEs in the services and manufacturing sectors invest more in tools and machinery. At the same time, they need to ensure increased turnover in order to sustain high levels of profitability required to grow business. Therefore, government should also design and implement programmes aimed at continuously imparting skills and knowledge customised to enable SMEs to conduct planning, review of their financial analysis, and forecasting of funding thresholds necessary to sustain their businesses in the face of different dynamic business conditions.

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	N	Min	Max	Sum	Mean		Std. Deviation	Variance
					Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Statistic
Approved	82	6316	159610	33626268	407097.6	10717.00	308009.11	94869616441.521
amount	6		0	7	8	8	7	
Turnover								
prior to	82	17388	347687	50826314	6153306.	241465.2	6939762.4	48160302670643.
applicatio	6	6	00	04	78	17	36	810
n								
Tools and	82	0	625000	27854928	337226.7	13134.21	377480.02	142491169401.19
machinery	6		0	4	4	0	5	7
Business	82	0	975024	50743781	61433.15	3141.736	90294.170	8153037167.944
developme	6							
nt								
Training	82	0	165032	2074548	2511.56	404.323	11620.328	135032022.781
Training	6							
Number of	82	1	508	18195	22.03	1.420	40.804	1664.965
employees	6							
Valid N	82							
(list-wise)	6							

Table 1: Descriptive statistics

Sector	Variable	Mean	Std.	Ν
			Deviation	
	Approved amount	407519.48	309050.304	
	Application cost	789617.57	1364641.945	
	Turnover prior to application	6049889.27	6823784.746	
Services	Tools and machinery	336518.86	387398.782	714
	Business development	62828.27	93585.177	
	Training	2682.61	12315.290	
	Number of employees	21.96	41.177	
	Approved amount	447244.64	326522.494	
	Application cost	839829.51	681980.771	
	Turnover prior to application	7051261.87	7579502.290	
Manufacturing	Tools and machinery	379249.19	337404.015	85
	Business development	54529.61	68811.610	
	Training	1872.51	6013.260	
	Number of employees	24.79	43.200	

Table 2 : Descriptive statistics

## Table 3: Model summary<sup>b,c, d</sup>

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R	Std. Error of the	Durbin-
		-	Square	Estimate	Watson
1	.723	.522	.522	437505282.667	
2	.819	.671	.670	363236298.629	2.016
3	.835	.698	.697	348198376.426	2.010
4	.838 <sup>a</sup>	.703	.701	345667953.553	
~ ~ ~					

a. Predictors: Tools and machinery, Turnover prior to application, Business development, No. of employees

b. Dependent Variable: Approved amount

c. Linear Regression through the Origin

d. Weighted Least Squares Regression - Weighted by Application amount

0% nfidence erval for
rval for
erval for
ve Unne
ve Unne
ac oppe
r
in Boun
d
1.901
3 .630
1 .026
6 .619
7 .022
0 1.465
8 .610
4 .020
7 1.420

Table 4 : Coefficients <sup>a,b,c</sup>	2
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	1							
Number	of	1228.	339.5	.085	3.618	.00	562.2	1895.
employees		7	6			0	0	2

a. Dependent Variable: Approved amount

b. Linear Regression through the Origin

c. Weighted Least Squares Regression - Weighted by Application cost

	R					Durbin-Watson Statistic		
Mod el	Sector = Services (Selecte d)	Sector ~= Services (Unselect ed)	R Squar e	Adjust ed R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Sector = Service s (Selecte d)	Sector ~= Services (Unselect ed)	
1	.708		.501	.500	446430367			
2	.807		.651	.650	.45 373607873 .75			
3	.826 <sup>a</sup>	1.000	.682	.680	356900734 .51	1.997	1.883	

Table 5 : Model Summary<sup>b,c,d, e</sup>

a. Predictors: Tools and machinery, Turnover prior to application, Business development

b. Unless noted otherwise, statistics are based only on cases for which Sector = Services

c. Dependent Variable: Approved amount

d. Linear Regression through the Origin

e. Weighted Least Squares Regression - Weighted by Application cost

		Т	able 6:Co	pefficients <sup>a,b,c</sup>	e,d		
Model			Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardize d Coefficients	t	Sig.
			B Std. Error Beta				
1	Tools and machinery		.818	.031	.708	26.742	.000
	Tools and machinery		.566	.029	.489	19.257	.000
2	Turnover prior application	to	.023	.001	.445	17.494	.000
	Tools and machinery		.560	.028	.484	19.938	.000
3	Turnover prior application	to	.018	.001	.358	13.534	.000
	Business development		1.229	.148	.197	8.320	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Approved amount

b. Linear Regression through the Origin

c. Weighted Least Squares Regression - Weighted by Application cost

d. Selecting only cases for which Sector = Services

Table 7. Wodel Summary										
	R		A 11		Durbin-Watson Statistic					
Mo del	Sector = Manufact uring (Selected)	Sector ~= Manufact uring (Unselect ed)	R Squa re	Adjust ed R Squar e	Std. Error of the Estimate	Sector = Manufact uring (Selected)	Sector ~= Manufact uring (Unselect ed)			
1	.833 <sup>a</sup>		.694	.691	39834866 2.41	2.065	2.086			

Table 7: Model Summary<sup>b,c,d, e</sup>

2	.902 <sup>c</sup>		.813	.809	31335032	
3	.907 <sup>d</sup>	1.000	.823	.817	6.07 30674482 0.60	

a. Predictors: Turnover prior to application, Tools and machinery, Business development

b. Unless noted otherwise, statistics are based only on cases for which Sector = Manufacturing

c. Dependent Variable: Approved amount

d. Linear Regression through the Origin

e. Weighted Least Squares Regression - Weighted by Application cost

Table 8 : Coefficients <sup>a,b,c,d</sup>									
		Unstandardiz	zed	Standardized					
Model		Coefficients		Coefficients	t	Sig.			
		В	Std. Error	Beta					
1	Turnover prior to	.049	.004	.833	13.811	.000			
1	application								
	Turnover prior to	.030	.004	.514	7.952	.000			
2	application								
	Tools and machinery	.601	.083	.470	7.263	.000			
	Turnover prior to	.029	.004	.492	7.682	.000			
2	application								
3	Tools and machinery	.557	.084	.435	6.663	.000			
	Business development	1.077	.501	.112	2.148	.035			

a. Dependent Variable: Approved amount

b. Linear Regression through the Origin

c. Weighted Least Squares Regression - Weighted by Application cost

d. Selecting only cases for which Sector = Manufacturing