

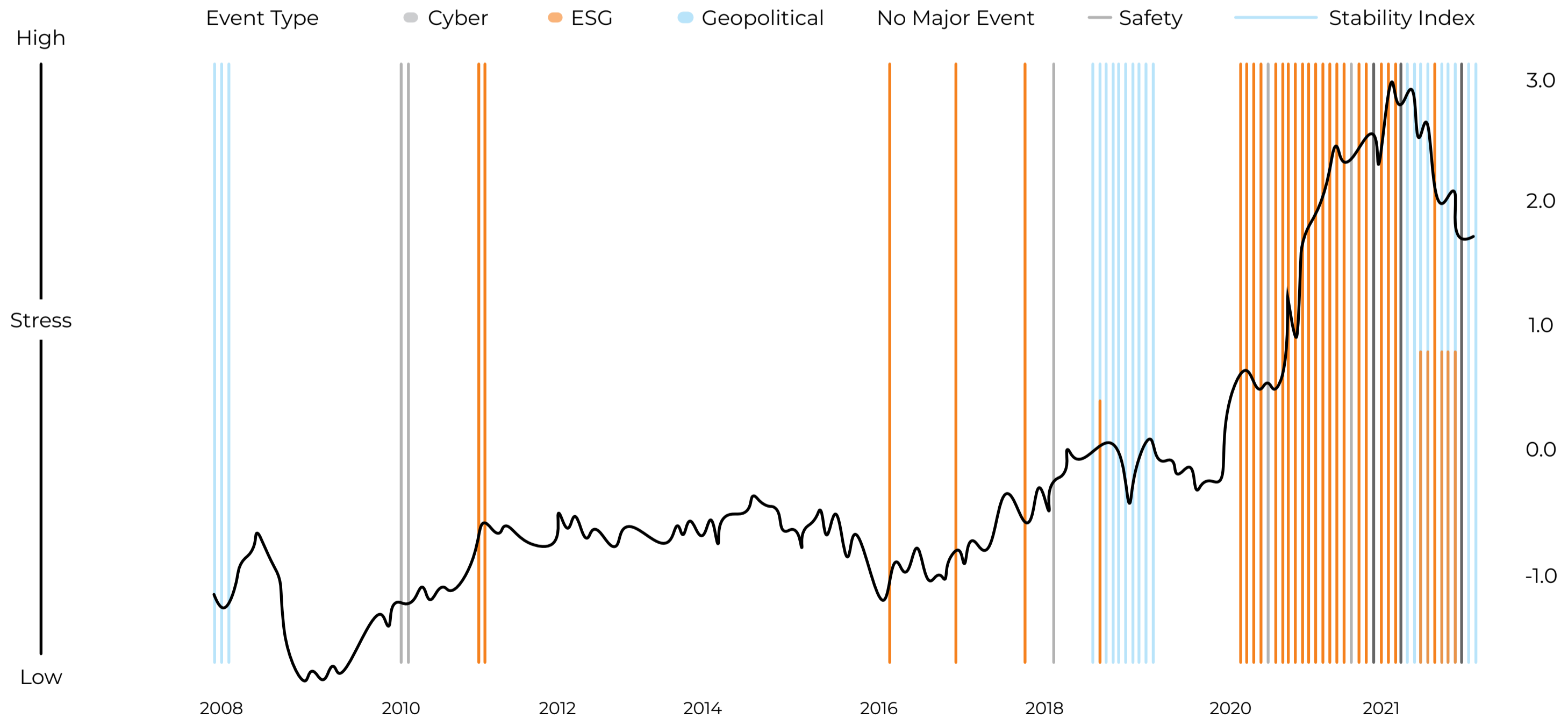
Supply Chain Outlook: What to Expect in the Near Future.

Investigating How Supply Chains Have changed, where they are heading, and how you can prepare.

The Forces Behind Supply Chains Today

The global supply chain has become increasingly volatile in recent years, brought on by the seismic impact of a global pandemic, a war in Ukraine, and growing tensions between the USA and China. These events left the industry in a constant state of recalibration, change, and tension for over three years. The companies and supply chain leaders that can keep their footing will develop strategies today that will lead to a far more resilient supply chain in the future.

Major events impacting supply chains 2008-2023



Rethinking supply chain fundamentals

Where do supply chain leaders find emphasis?

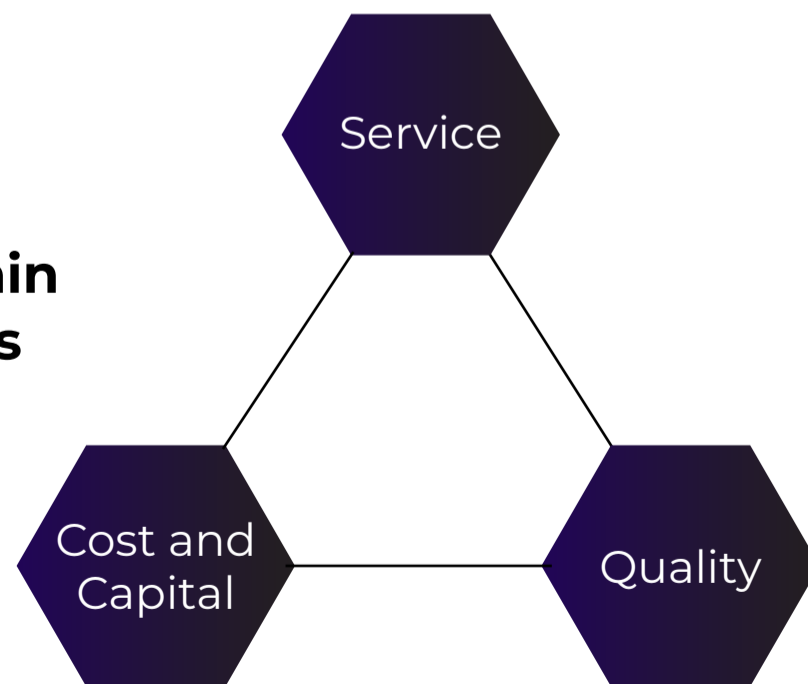
In a recent study by McKinsey entitled “Future Proofing the Supply Chain” they pointed out that the entire mentality behind the balance of supply chain has changed. The traditional supply chain objectives of cost efficiency, service, and quality must now be managed with goals for resilience, agility, and sustainability.

These new priorities bring supply chains the flexibility to adapt to changes quickly and sustain through unexpected events.

This report investigates four major shifts in supply chain operation today that provide insight into what supply chains will look like in the near future.



Traditional supply chain strategy areas of focus



Future strategy with new areas of focus



Intelligent Automation and Machine Learning

Future Forward Focus

High pressure situations encountered over the recent years is causing many supply chain professionals to leave the industry. According to Future of Sourcing, the supply chain talent shortage is expected to leave 2.4 million positions unfilled between 2018 and 2028, creating a potential economic impact of 2.5 trillion dollars. At the same time, AI is becoming more widely adopted. Many workers have begun to use AI to enhance speed and effectiveness of daily tasks. AI is still in its early stages of technology and adoption, so its impacts remain speculative. With the two factors combined, it is predicted that for every ten planning roles that are in the market today, only one will remain in as little as five years. Morgan Stanley goes so far to predict that AI could take over all human touchpoints in a supply chain. On the other side of things, soon all humans will have an AI assistant to help perform their jobs faster.

What does this mean for your supply chain?

The result of these changes will be very similar to the results seen with any automation increase. In addition to shifts in the day-to-day tasks of leaders in planning roles, the onset of AI means faster decision making and quicker reaction time. It also means less built-in to assume human time structures, such as weekends, evenings, holidays, or even time needed for people to make decisions. Ultimately this change will mean supply chains are more agile to challenges, quicker, and more profitable.



Experts predict that with the help of machine learning and AI, what used to take 1000 supply chain management professionals could soon take just 100.

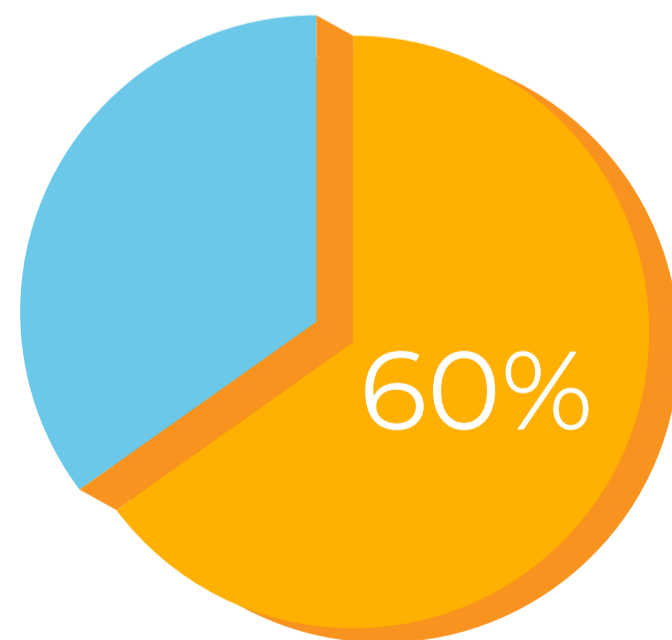
Traceability

Supply chain traceability has emerged as a powerful tool in enhancing transparency, efficiency, and sustainability across supply chain networks. Regulatory shifts are a major driver for updates in traceability in today's supply chain. For example, the FDA food safety modernization act compels stricter management of cold chain, forcing stakeholders in the food supply chain to enhance traceability rapidly. IoT devices such as sensors, RFID tags, and connected devices, are playing a pivotal role in capturing real-time data throughout the supply chain. These devices enable the collection of granular information about products, including their location, condition, temperature, and handling history.

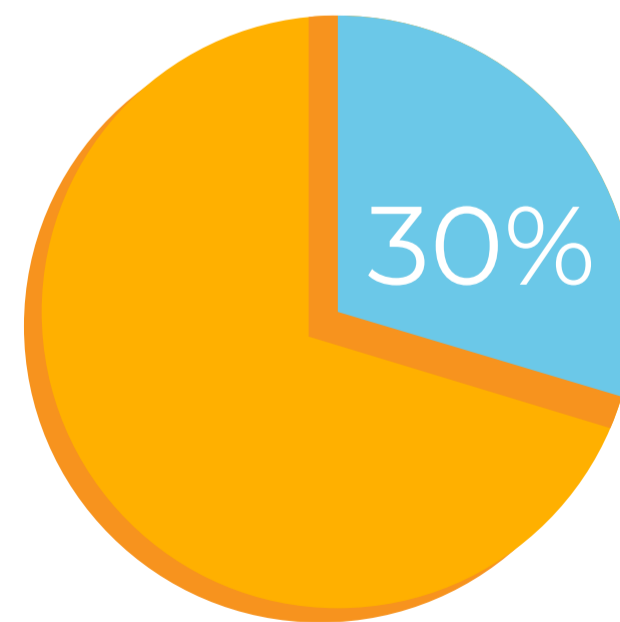
What does that mean for your supply chain?

Over the next five years, we can expect significant advancements in the integration of traceability and IoT technologies, further revolutionizing the way supply chains operate. Major advancements in battery life, infrastructure for data uploading, a reduction in tracking unit hardware pricing will play a key role in enhancing traceability.

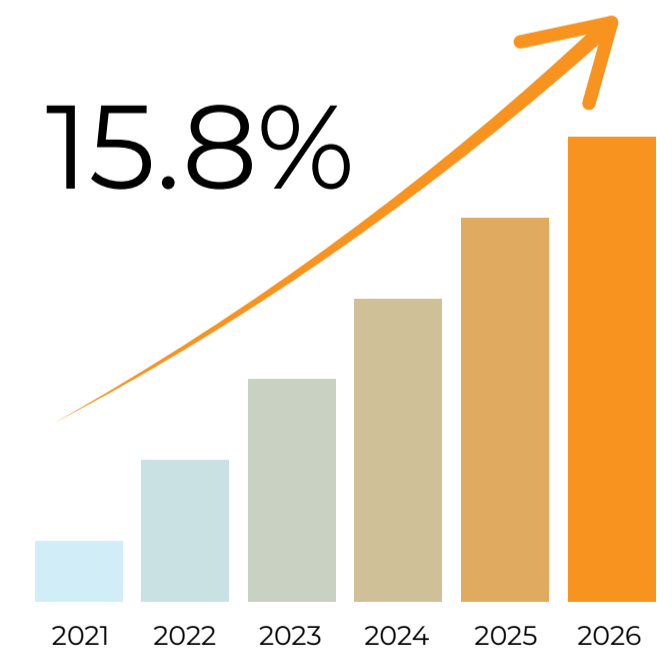
By continuously monitoring and analyzing this data, supply chain stakeholders will proactively identify and address potential quality issues, minimizing product spoilage and ensuring optimal quality throughout the supply chains. As a result, future supply chains will see fewer shortages, recalls and inefficiencies overall.



Lage enterprises that will implemented traceability solutions by 2025



Companies that have implemented traceability solutions have seen 30% reduction in supply chain disruptions



Compound annual growth rate of traceability market

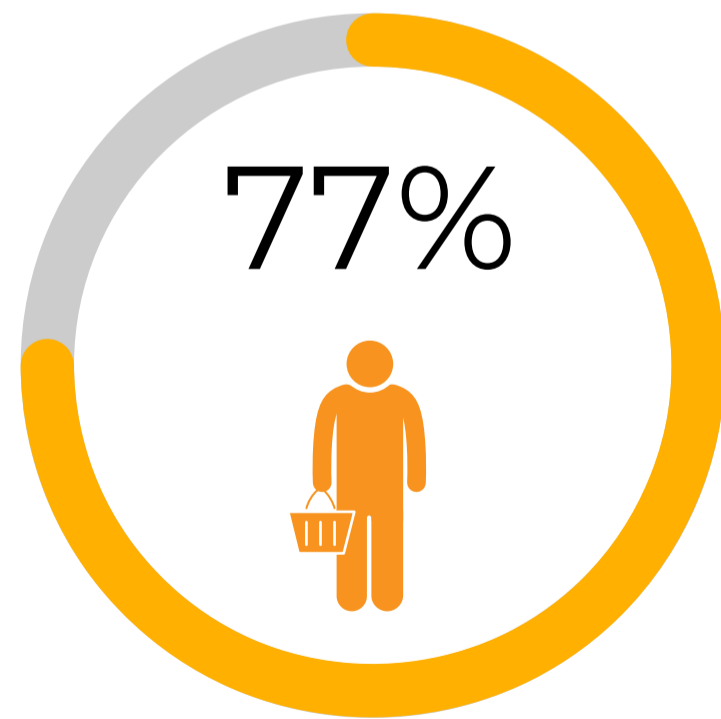
Sustainability

Sustainability and the impact your business plays on the environment are only growing more critical to consumers and other stakeholders. While not all supply chains serve consumers directly, the large retail supply chains that do are noticing a population that grows more intent on sustainability and increasing their expectations on their third-party partners.

Supply chain leaders improve their capacity for a sustainable supply chain every year. KPMG recommends that supply chain leaders build end-to-end visibility of the supply chain to see where their goods are moving, the organizations that are moving them, and their sustainability credentials.

What does this mean for your supply chain?

To know what your supply chain will look like in the near future, you only have to view the published sustainability goals of your customers. For example, many customer facing brands and retailers have committed to zero waste goals as early as 2030. The question is, do you bring a partnership that allows your customers to advance their sustainability goals?



Consumers say they will stop buying products from companies who greenwash their efforts.



66% of Consumers prefer brands that align with their values

Building a supply chain for the near future

Though many factors will impact what supply chains look like in the near future, it is already clear today that they will encompass more technology, sustainable practices, traceability, and flexibility in the face of material shortages. The seeds of these changes can be seen today. Now is the time to take steps in these known directions to allow space for the unknown. Tomorrow's supply chain leaders are already doing it.

About ProVision WMS

Provision WMS is a warehouse management system that is ready to take your warehouse operations to the next level.

Our warehouse management software is a result of being developed and refined by warehouse management experts, with deep knowledge and understanding of the challenges faced by warehouse operations managers and business owners, in their pursuit to increase profit margins and efficiency.



No matter what challenges your warehouse operations face Provision WMS offers a solution that can help address it! Our team ethos and relationship with customers are unlike any other WMS, with customer engagement key to the success of Provision WMS. With the key end goal of reducing your operational costs and improving service levels.

Ahearn & Soper Inc. is a leading provider of supply chain technology to the warehouse, manufacturing, and healthcare industries throughout North America. The company's portfolio includes software, hardware, supplies, and service. Our Provision WMS (Warehouse Management System) software enables medium-sized distribution and third-party logistics (3PLs) businesses to rapidly improve operations to meet the growing demands of their customers at a lower cost. Ahearn & Soper is a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner, with 25 years of experience in the deployment of Microsoft-based logistics software. We are committed to providing our clients with the highest level of service and support. Our customer-centric approach is reflected in the long-term relationships we build with our clients. This commitment to excellence has earned Ahearn & Soper a reputation for reliability and trustworthiness and made us a preferred partner for businesses of all sizes.



proVision
Warehouse Management Systems
By Ahearn & Soper Inc.

Contact us at marketing@ahearn.com