

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGER

ALSO KNOWN AS: LOGISTICS COORDINATOR PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

FORGE THE LINKS THAT BIND RAW MATERIALS TO FINISHED PRODUCTS IN THE MANUFACTURING WORLD.

As a Supply Chain Manager, you will manage the process from procurement to production to delivery. Your strategic decisions will streamline operations, optimise costs, and ensure the smooth flow of goods across local and global networks.

KEY SKILLS

Skills which may benefit anyone considering a job as a supply chain manager include:

- ✔ Data analysis
- ✔ Logistics management
- ✔ Negotiation
- ✔ Risk management
- ✔ Strategic planning

CAREER PROGRESSION

In this role, you may have the opportunity to progress to other positions. Career progression opportunities include:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Chief Operating Officer
- Business Manager
- Business Development Manager

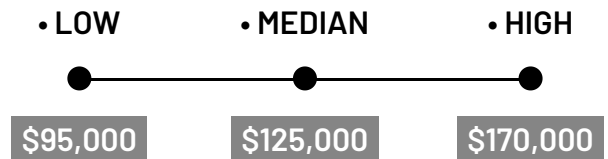
VALUES & ATTRIBUTES

Values and attributes of anyone considering a job as a supply chain manager include:

- ✔ Adaptable
- ✔ Attention to detail
- ✔ Analytical
- ✔ Communication
- ✔ Leadership
- ✔ Conventional – “Organiser”

SALARY EXPECTATION

The expected salary for a Supply Chain Manager can vary across different areas of manufacturing and may increase as you become more experienced.



RELATED INDUSTRIES

- ▶ Aerospace and Defence ▶ Chemicals, Hydrocarbons and Refining ▶ Food and Beverage ▶ Furniture and Other Products
- ▶ General Manufacturing and Engineering ▶ Laboratory Operations ▶ Meat and Seafood Processing ▶ Pharmaceutical and Medical Technology
- ▶ Polymers, Plastic and Rubber ▶ Printing and Graphic arts ▶ Process Plant Operations ▶ Pulp, Paper and Packaging ▶ Renewables
- ▶ Sustainable Operations ▶ Textiles, Clothing and Footwear ▶ Timber and Wood ▶ Transport Equipment and Machinery

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SUBJECTS

- Design
- Digital Solutions
- Information and Communication Technology
- Mathematical Methods

CORE SCHOOL SUBJECTS

- General Mathematics
- Essential English
- Business
- Economics

JOB OVERVIEW

Supply Chain Managers in manufacturing are the strategic masterminds behind the scenes, ensuring that the right materials are in the right place at the right time. They oversee a complex network of suppliers, logistics providers, and internal stakeholders to maintain the delicate balance between cost, quality, and speed. As organisations move to meet net zero targets, Supply Chain Managers play a crucial role in implementing sustainable practices, reducing the carbon footprint of operations, and meeting Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) goals and reporting, directly impacting the company's emissions and overall environmental performance.

A typical day might kick off with analysing global market trends and tweaking procurement strategies accordingly. You'll likely find yourself haggling with suppliers, troubleshooting unexpected delivery hiccups, and collaborating with production teams to optimise inventory levels. As the day progresses, you might be called upon to implement new technologies like blockchain for supply chain transparency or AI for demand forecasting. Your role is critical in maintaining the agility and resilience of the manufacturing process in an ever-changing global landscape.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Your role may include duties as follows:

1. Your success will be determined by your ability to attract, secure and maintain relationships with suppliers, and will involve negotiating contracts, communicating expectations and ensuring timely product delivery.
2. You will be required to coordinate product delivery on time and per expectation.
3. You'll be regularly performing inventory management – ensuring existing stock meets demand and availability requests.
4. Analysing market trends and keeping abreast of developments to ensure resource allocation and reducing the chance of overcapitalising.
5. Assess and refine supply chain processes to ensure best practice.

HOW TO BECOME A SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGER

Becoming a Supply Chain Manager in manufacturing typically requires a combination of relevant education and significant industry experience. This role is not usually a direct entry position and often requires progression through various supply chain roles. Here are the key steps:

1. Obtain a degree in Supply Chain Management, Operations Management, or a related field
2. Gain experience in various aspects of manufacturing operations
3. Develop expertise in emerging technologies affecting manufacturing supply chains
4. Build a strong network within the manufacturing industry and related sectors
5. Seek mentorship from experienced supply chain professionals
6. Take on cross-functional projects to broaden your expertise

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

Vocational education and training can be an excellent starting point for a career in supply chain management within manufacturing. Consider the following options:

- Diploma of Engineering – Planning (MEM50722)
- Diploma of Competitive Systems and Practices (MSS50322)
- Diploma of Quality Auditing (BSB51615)
- Diploma of Materiel Logistics (TLI50422)

These qualifications can provide you with practical skills and knowledge in areas such as inventory management, transportation, and warehouse operations. Many VET providers offer courses that combine classroom learning with on-the-job training, giving you valuable industry experience.

UNIVERSITY & HIGHER EDUCATION

For those looking to fast-track their career or aim for senior positions, a higher education qualification can be beneficial:

- Bachelor of Business (Supply Chain and Logistics Management)
- Graduate Certificate in Competitive Systems and Practices (MSS80322)
- Master of Supply Chain Management
- Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a focus on Operations Management

These degrees offer in-depth knowledge of supply chain strategies, global logistics, and advanced analytical skills. Many universities offer internship programs or industry projects, allowing you to apply your learning in real-world scenarios.

Continuing professional development is crucial in this rapidly evolving field. Consider industry certifications, short courses in emerging technologies (e.g., blockchain, AI in supply chain), and attending industry conferences and workshops to stay current with the latest trends and best practices in supply chain management.