

Analysing the Impact of COVID-19 on China's Food Supply Chain

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Abstract. COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the supply chains of almost all manufacturers, retailers, and wholesalers, and they're all suffering from maintaining a steady flow of goods and services. So, during the outbreak, consumers have developed or are developing some new consumption habits, such as buying daily necessities without leaving home more frequently or relying more on online services. As a result of panic buying and hoarding consumer behaviors, sudden changes in consumption patterns, labor shortages, and the supplies of necessities such as food, have also been severely affected. Taking the food supply chain in China as an example, during the COVID-19, food production and supply chain are suffering from disruption due to the citywide lockdowns such as the restrictions on people's mobility.

As the pandemic grows, the food supply chain faces severe challenges due to the volatility of demand. The suppliers suffer from various risks such as global sourcing, supplier dependence, quality/quantity risk, delivery risk, and operational risk. Supply chain risks are unplanned and unpredictable events happening with any organization, which, if they occurred, it might bring serious damage, financial loss, performance loss, or reputation loss. With the outbreak, the insufficient elasticity and sensitivity of the food supply chain are gradually exposed. The issues are mainly reflected in the face of panic buying or the change of purchasing patterns. This paper aims to identify the impacts of COVID-19 on China's food supply chain and then provide an appropriate model to identify proper strategies in dealing with the crisis. There is a dearth of information on the impact of COVID-19 on China's food supply chain, so this study helps food companies to have a clear understanding of the supply chain management issues under the effects of the outbreak. And finally, this paper provides some appropriate models or frameworks to establish proper strategies.

Keywords: COVID-19 outbreak, food supply chain, supply chain management, risk, China

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