

## THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON LOGISTICS

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Logistics firms, which are involved in the movement, storage, and flow of goods, have been directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. They are important for global manufacturing, which is complex and multilocational. Moreover, when cargo owners developed a deeper understanding of the problem, everyone started rebuilding business processes at all levels. A significant reduction in traffic volumes affected metalworking, automotive, construction and HoReCa industries. Negative trends in these industries were partly offset by the increase in the sales of food and hygiene products.

The pandemic spread to the rest of the world, leading to lockdowns and border closures that restricted the movement of goods. Additional protocols (such as social distancing at warehouses) introduced to ensure the safety of workers contributed to bottlenecks for freight. However, not all segments will be impacted equally – companies that serve e-commerce are seeing increased activity as consumers opt for online shopping of essentials, while those that serve other sectors (such as auto and consumer goods) will see a downturn. For the most part, governments have responded to the crisis by designating ports, shipping, and trucking services as essential – and thereby exempt from lockdown measures.

The recovery and long-term impact of the pandemic on logistics may be affected by adaptations and factors, such as increased dedicated air cargo capacity, increased cargo inspections and cross border control protocols, technology and e-commerce rise, reconfiguration of global value chains – the pandemic has exposed the vulnerability of complex and extended supply chains to production disruptions.

In conclusion, it is possible to mention that recovery prospects will vary by country, subsector: As logistics is a diverse sector, recovery prospects will vary depending on the length of lockdowns and the duration of the subsequent economic crisis.