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Even if you live in the most rural of towns, you've most likely encountered products and services that participate in the global supply chain. In recent decades, the expansion of trade has required supply chain management to become leaner, more efficient, and flexible. But these supply chains can be disrupted by political and other unforeseen events, such as Russia's invasion on Ukraine or the COVID-19 pandemic. Shortages due to transportation, logistics, and government sanctions can drive up prices of food, gas, and other essentials, as we have seen with the current global supply chain crisis. While supply chain analysts and managers were previously able to make quick adjustments to resolve bottlenecks, the compounding forces have created some serious damage. The good news is that with a 19 percent job growth rate, it's a great time to become a supply chain analyst [1]. Discover what you need to know to get started. What is a supply chain analyst?A supply chain analyst plays an important role in planning, analyzing, and monitoring a company's supply chain distribution to ensure products make it to their destinations in a timely, cost-efficient manner. Supply chain analysts usually work on specific projects. That could be a product launch in a new country or lowering costs by identifying new routes or suppliers. Supply chain analysts serve as the liaison between a company and its (usually overseas) suppliers. They may be in charge of researching fair prices and negotiating good deals. A supply chain analyst also monitors inventory stock in warehouses and tracks how much more product is needed using tools such as SAP. What does a supply chain analyst do?Supply chain analysts are the contact person for organizations that purchase overseas, working on end-to-end projects to ensure products get from Point A to Point B. Common supply chain analyst responsibilities and tasks include:Monitoring data on current business operations, managing different pieces such as sourcing, warehousing, deliveries, and scheduling productionCollecting and analyzing data to reduce costs and increase efficiencyManaging supply chain processes and inventory using tools like SAPMaintaining professional relationships with vendors, acting as representatives of the company or organization to promote a positive imageConsistently seeking ways to improve supply chain management, including evaluating approaches, processes, tools, and technologyWhere do supply chain analysts work?As a supply chain analyst, it is likely that you will work in one of the main industries in which supply chain management is needed. These might include retail or e-commerce stores that sell food, soft goods like clothing, shoes, and toiletries, large goods like cars, electronics, furniture, pharmaceuticals, and more. That means you could be working as a supply chain analyst for any of these companies. That includes big names like Nestle, Walmart, Toyota, and Pfizer, but supply chain analysis is also needed at smaller companies like Mara Hoffman, a high-end fashion brand. You might also need supply chain analysis skills if you are a business consultant working for a consulting firm such as McKinsey, that is dedicated to creating lean teams and eliminating unnecessary processes. Skills needed?Just like any other business role, supply chain analysts must have core workplace (soft) skills alongside technical (hard) skills. Explore what a supply chain analyst needs to demonstrate to succeed in the role:Effective communication: To collaborate with cross-cultural teams and colleagues, including suppliers and customersCritical thinking and problem-solving: To develop and implement logistical plans, respond to issues that inevitably arise, and find solutions to improve costs and efficiencyInterpersonal skills: To coordinate the complex movement of products between suppliers, warehouses, and customers. Active listening and a love of people can be helpful, especially if you rise up in supply chain roles.Organizational skills: To maintain records across various tools and systems and manage multiple simultaneous projectsTime management: To keep up with the fast-paced environment with competing priorities and deadlinesKnowledge of tools and technology: To handle all of the data on enterprise resource planning (ERP) technology like SAP or Salesforce and process it in a way that makes business senseSupply chain analysts are needed at each stage of supply chain management. Some stages and focus areas that a supply chain analyst might specialize in include:Production planningInventory managementRaw material sourcingDemand planningSupply chain network designDistribution planningSupply chain analyst salary and job outlookAccording to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the annual median salary for logisticians is \$79,400 [1]. As mentioned earlier, the number of jobs is expected to grow 19 percent between 2023 and 2033, which is much faster than the average of all occupations (4 percent) [1]. Supply chain analysts made the following in the top industries [2]:IndustryMedian SalaryFederal government\$95,890Management of companies and enterprises\$81,890Manufacturing\$82,410Professional, scientific, and technical services\$80,160Wholesale trade\$72,200A e-commerce continues to expand, companies will increasingly need more just-in-time deliveries. The outlook for supply chain related careers is a bright one. How to become a supply chain analystTo become a supply chain analyst, it is advisable that you have a bachelor's degree. If you already have one, and are hoping to switch careers, then you can skip the first step and go straight for building up your skills and work experience. Explore how to get started as a supply chain analyst.1. Get a bachelor's degree.While not all supply chain analysts need to have a bachelor's to land a job role, the chances of you getting hired are much higher if you do. A degree in business administration would be a great choice. According to Zipia, 72.8 percent of supply chain analysts have a bachelor's degree, and 15 percent have masters degrees [3]. Because the field of supply chain management is complex, fast-paced, and requires managing many moving parts (literally!), you should have a strong technical know-how of tools like SAP, as well as a strong foundation in business acumen, problem-solving, and quantitative analysis.2. Build up your skills.Build your skills and knowledge of supply chain management and analytics with a course. If you feel you need to brush up on communication skills, you can enroll in courses that challenge you to public speaking, or you can practice active listening at home or in the workplace. If you require technical skills, play around with SAP or Excel. To get more familiar with Microsoft Excel, these short guided projects on Finding, Sorting, & Filtering Data in Microsoft Excel and Create Charts and Dashboard using Google Sheets might help.3. Apply for entry-level jobs.Next, you're ready to apply for some jobs! You might want to start by researching companies or organizations you'd like to work for and narrowing down your search from there. Make sure to create (or clean up) your resume and write an original cover letter for the supply chain analyst roles that interest you. If you are switching careers, modify your resume and brush up on your interviewing skills. Read more: What is an Entry-Level Job?Supply chain analysts might look different when you're searching for jobs on LinkedIn or other sites. Some other names for similar job roles include sourcing analyst, materials planner, production analyst, transportation analyst, logistics analyst, demand planning analyst, and supply chain modeling analyst. The title analyst might be at the same level as specialist in some companies, while specialist at other companies is a step up from analyst. Further, manager tends to be a step above specialist. Learn more about supply chain analyst on CourseraAs a supply chain analyst, you can help keep the supply chain operating in any of the many industries that rely on shipping to sell products or purchase goods. Launch your business career with a specialization in Supply Chain Analytics from Rutgers University. In approximately five months, you'll master all the data-driven tools you need to improve a company's supply chain performance. In today's digital-driven world, you can get almost any product just with a single click. Every day, millions of products are delivered to people worldwide with the help of evolved supply chains. An organization's supply chain needs to run efficiently to deliver products on time and at a reasonable cost. Supply chain analysts play a critical role in the logistics and operations of a company. They use analytical and quantitative methods to understand, predict, and enhance supply chain processes. Their main duties and responsibilities include:Analyze and interpret supply chain data such as shipment and delivery times, costs, and inventory levelsDevelop and implement data collection systems and other strategies that optimize statistical efficiency and data qualityEvaluate and report on key metrics and performance indicators to managementLogistics and deliveryCreate complex reports, analyze and interpret logistics data, then develop strategies based on findingsTrack KPIs and report on supply chain performance Supply Chain Analyst Job Description TemplateOur BriefWe are looking for an experienced Supply Chain Analyst to oversee and manage every aspect of our supply chain process. Supply Chain Analyst responsibilities include managing and coordinating with suppliers, monitoring order system accuracy, tracking inventory levels, and developing strategies to minimize cost and improve efficiency. Our ideal candidate is familiar with supply chain processes, data analysis, and has a strong ability to problem-solve. Ultimately, the role of the Supply Chain Analyst is to ensure our supply chain operations are efficient, cost-effective, and meet customer demands. ResponsibilitiesAnalyze supply chain data and identify issues that could affect product delivery or performance. Develop and implement strategies to improve supply chain efficiency and reduce costs. Monitor supplier performance and negotiate contracts to ensure supply chain reliability. Collaborate with other departments to determine future needs and plan supply chain accordingly. Track and forecast inventory needs, and manage inventory control systems. Prepare and present reports on supply chain performance. Stay up-to-date with industry trends and advancements in supply chain management. QualificationsProven work experience as a Supply Chain Analyst, Logistics Coordinator or similar roleExperience in data mining, analysis and reportingFamiliarity with supply chain processes (e.g. inventory planning, warehouse management)Working knowledge of MS Office, relational databases and ERP systems (e.g. SAP)Analytical mind with business acumenProblem-solving aptitudeAttention to detailExcellent communication skillsBSc/B.A in Logistics, Business Analytics, Mathematics or a related fieldBenefits401(k)Health insuranceDental insuranceRetirement planPaid time offProfessional development opportunities Additional InformationJob Title: Supply Chain AnalystLocation: [City, State] (specify the location or indicate if remote)Employment Type: Full-time/Equal Opportunity Statement: We are an equal opportunity employer and value diversity at our company. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, veteran status, or disability status. Application Instructions: Please submit your resume and a cover letter outlining your qualifications and experience to [email address or application portal]. What Does a Supply Chain Analyst Do?Supply Chain Analysts play a critical role in the logistics and operations of an organization. They typically work for manufacturing companies, retail corporations, and logistics service providers. Their primary responsibility is to oversee and manage every stage of the supply chain process, from sourcing and procurement to the distribution of goods to the end consumer. They analyze and interpret complex data, identify trends, and make recommendations to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and increase customer satisfaction. Supply Chain Analysts also monitor supplier performance to ensure contractual obligations are met and develop risk management strategies to mitigate potential supply chain disruptions. They often use sophisticated supply chain management software and data analysis tools to carry out their tasks. In addition, Supply Chain Analysts collaborate with various departments such as procurement, operations, sales, and finance to align supply chain strategies with business objectives. They may also be responsible for negotiating contracts with suppliers, assisting in new product development, and implementing supply chain optimization projects. Supply Chain Analyst Qualifications and SkillsA proficient supply chain analyst should have the skills and qualifications that align with your job description, such as:Strong analytical skills to evaluate supply chain operations and interpret complex data.Advanced proficiency in supply chain software and tools, including ERP systems and data analysis tools like SAP or Excel.Excellent communication skills to collaborate with vendors, suppliers, and various internal teams.Knowledge of supply chain processes and related software is also crucial for this role. Deadlines.Knowledge of inventory management, procurement, logistics, and operations.Understanding of supply chain best practices and industry standards.Detail-oriented approach to ensure accuracy and efficiency in data analysis and reporting.Strong negotiation skills for dealing with suppliers and vendors. Supply Chain Analyst Experience RequirementsEntry-level Supply Chain Analysts typically have 1 to 2 years of experience, often obtained through internships or part-time roles in logistics, operations, or supply chain management. These professionals might also gain experience in roles such as Logistics Coordinator, Operations Analyst, or other related roles in the supply chain industry. Candidates with more than 3 years of experience usually have developed their analytical skills and understanding of supply chain processes in entry-level Supply Chain Analyst or Logistics Analyst roles. Those with more than 5 years of experience often have some project management or supervisory experience in their background and may be ready for a senior supply chain analyst or supply chain manager position. Additionally, for this role, experience with data analysis tools and software like Excel, SQL, and ERP systems is often preferred. Understanding of supply chain regulations, risk management, and proficiency in forecasting techniques can also be crucial experience requirements. Supply Chain Analyst Training and RequirementsA Supply Chain Analyst typically holds a bachelor's degree in business, logistics, supply chain management, or a related field. They must have an understanding of business operations, logistics, and supply chain management. This can be obtained through specialized courses during their undergraduate studies or through postgraduate programs. Supply chain analysts may also benefit from professional certifications such as the Certified Supply Chain Professional (CSCP) or the Certified Supply Chain Analyst (CSCA). These certifications can enhance their credibility and provide them with the latest industry knowledge and skills. Supply chain analysts may also benefit from professional certifications such as the Certified Supply Chain Professional (CSCP) or the Certified Supply Chain Analyst (CSCA). 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Supply chain analyst skills. What does a supply chain analyst do. What is a supply chain analyst. Supply chain analyst job scope. Supply chain analyst job role. Supply chain analyst job description.