

IMPACTS OF THE PANDEMIC ON SUPPLY CHAINS WORLDWIDE - SYNOPSIS

Background information

In November of 2019, a new pneumonial disease emerged, spreading worldwide. Since then, almost 500 million people have been infected by this virus, which was later labeled "COVID-19" by WHO.

People were shocked by its rapid spread. Although the majority of countries reacted immediately, the disease has effectively impaired most of the economic sectors worldwide. All subjects were instructed to follow the countermeasures fully and without exception. Although the rules were respected almost always, the coronavirus managed to cripple the industry - People that have been diagnosed with COVID 19 were to be quarantined and their colleagues and families too. Both the virus itself and its administered countermeasures have drastically hindered the logistics sector worldwide. This also led to a global shortage of employees and working personnel, consequently tanking the global economy. It is absolutely necessary to stabilize the supply sector worldwide, to prevent it from failing in the future. There's little doubt that the contagion will be successfully extinguished in a short time. Nonetheless, the economy is regenerating and the world is more relaxed in terms of COVID countermeasures than before.

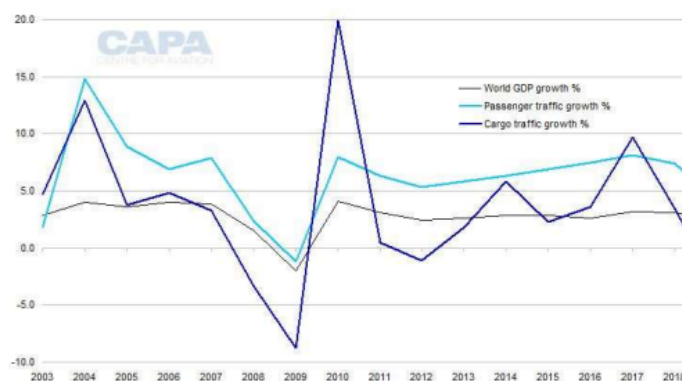


Fig. 1. Comparison of air passenger traffic and air cargo traffic by year-on-year growth rate ("Air cargo: more virus-proof than air passengers – but not enough", 2021)

Questions to consider :

- What is the status of COVID-19 contagion in the country that you represent?
- How drastically was the country's economy affected by the disease?
- Is your country looking into lifting the countermeasures in the coming weeks or the exact opposite?
- Do you believe that the issue is persisting, or that there is no necessity to resolve it, since the contagion no longer severely affects the supply chains?
- What are your proposals regarding the resolution of the current issue?
- What are your suggestions that would help to avoid the supply chains being crippled by another world crisis in the future?

Useful sources :

<https://unctad.org/news/blog-heres-how-we-can-resolve-global-supply-chain-crisis>

<https://www.pwc.com/ng/en/assets/pdf/impact-of-covid19-the-supply-chain-industry.pdf>

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