

Counteracting Disruptions during the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Supply Chains of the Automotive Industry: The Example of Polish Enterprises

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Abstract : The aim of the article was to present ways to counteract disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic occurring in the supply chain of enterprises from the automotive industry. The specific objectives are to determine changes in the automotive industry during the pandemic, to show the types of disruptions in supply chains, and how to counteract these unfavorable situations. Enterprises from the automotive industry operating in Poland were deliberately selected for research. Using the purposive sampling method, ten companies from the automotive industry were selected for qualitative research. In-depth research was carried out in selected enterprises using a personal interview. At the beginning of the pandemic, lockdowns and unpredictability were a problem. The key was to protect employees and introduce appropriate procedures. In the later stages of the pandemic, there were restrictions on the timeliness of deliveries and extension of delivery times. There were problems with the shortage of materials, and the costs of products and transport increased. In automotive companies, counteracting the effects of the pandemic consisted of ensuring the safety of employees, maintaining constant contact and communication with branches and headquarters, as well as with suppliers and contractors. Therefore, appropriate communication, cooperation, and flexibility were important.

Keywords : disruptions, automotive industry, supply chain disruption, cooperation in supply chain

Conference Title : ICSCMO 2024 : International Conference on Supply Chain Management and Operations

Conference Location : Oslo, Norway

Conference Dates : June 27-28, 2024