

SOLUTION BRIEF

The Suez Canal: Looking Beyond the Surface to Assess the Full Economic Impact

A Dun & Bradstreet and e2open® Perspective on the Ripple Effect of Ever Given Blocking the Suez Canal and Best Practices for Building Supply Chain Resilience

On March 23, 2021, the Ever Given, a 193 feet wide vessel, ran aground in the Suez Canal. While the vessel was freed on March 29, the ripple effect of its lodging in the Canal will have continued ramifications for global supply chains in the weeks to come as global trade resumes, goods start to be unloaded at destination ports and suppliers look to replenish shortfalls in essential materials that threatened downstream production and manufacturing of consumer goods.

Impact on Global Supply Chains – By the Numbers:

According to industry data, it is estimated that 12 percent of the world's seaborne trade and 30 percent of global container traffic passes through the Suez Canal annually, with approximately 50 container ships passing through every day, accounting for an estimated \$400M in cargo flowing through each hour.

Dun & Bradstreet's and e2open's team of data and analytics experts, joined together to provide insights on the impact of this incident on global supply chains, focusing on the global business impact that this blockage will cause industries and countries long-term. Using proprietary supply chain and shipping data, the team found that Europe is the region that will feel the strongest impact due to the blockage of the canal. Companies located in Asia will be impacted not only by the delay of shipments from Europe, but also by a shortage of empty containers returning to their region - further stalling their abilities to deliver goods around the world.

"The disaster of the moment becomes a global phenomenon because we realized the interconnectedness that comes with globalization and our reliance of each other as contributors to the global supply chain. Companies have developed a higher level of dependency on suppliers and third parties from other countries, and that dependency is highlighted when a link in the supply chain is impacted.

The Suez Canal incident gives us yet another reason for businesses to invest in data and technology to create an agile, geographically dispersed supply chain that can quickly pivot during unexpected events."

Brian Alster

General Manager, Third-Party Risk & Compliance
Dun & Bradstreet

Based on annual shipping data that tracks the vessels and materials found on-board that travel through the Suez Canal, Dun & Bradstreet data and analytics experts found:

In Europe:

The top countries most impacted by the Suez Canal blockage include: the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, France, Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Turkey and Austria.

The top 10 materials found in shipments through the Canal to Europe include: Vehicle parts and accessories, garments, electrical and photosensitive materials, wheeled toys such as tricycles and scooters, copper, machines and mechanical appliances, plastics, pharmaceutical goods, wine and plastics.

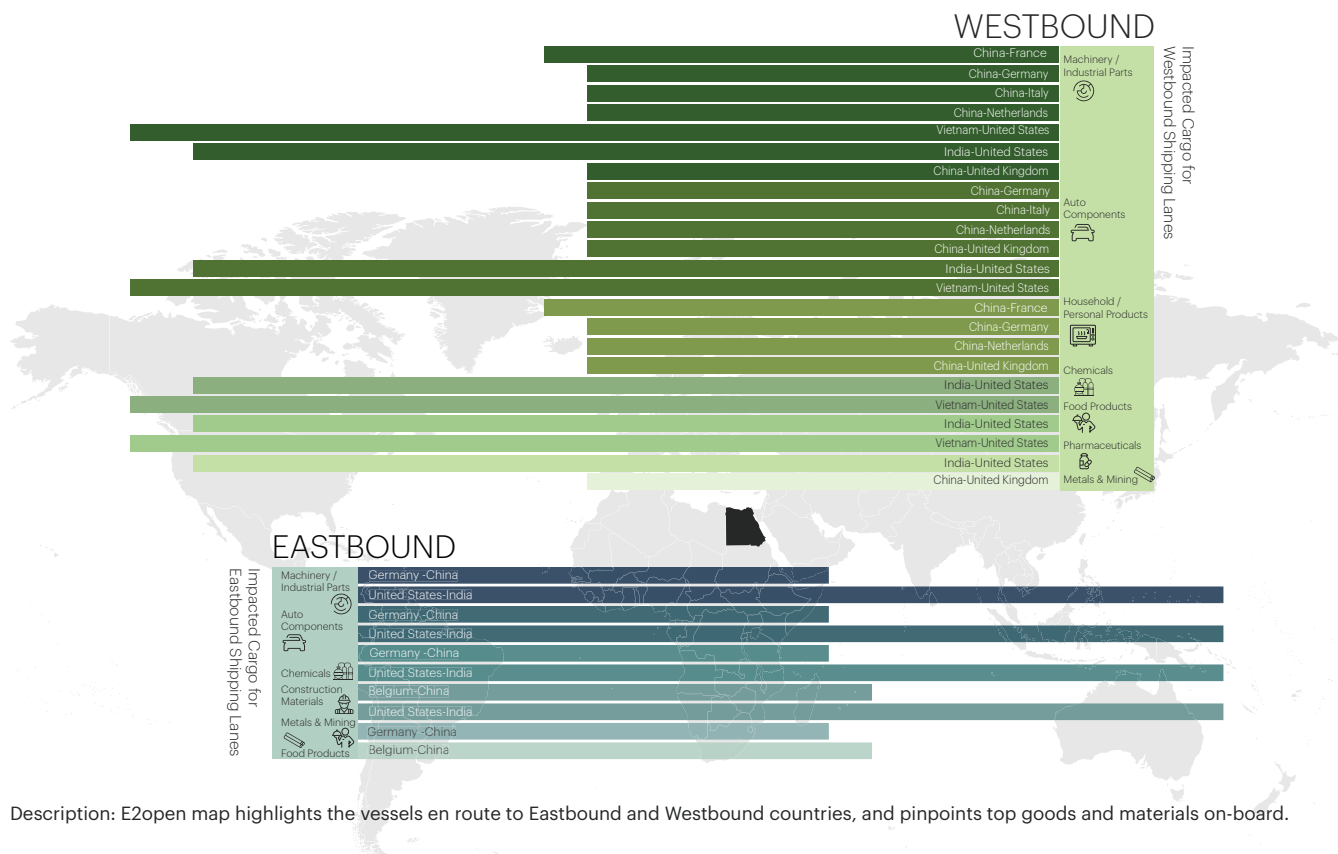
The top industries that will be most impacted by this incident include: Eating and drinking establishments, construction, wholesale trade, chemicals and allied product-related businesses, health services, food retailers, industrial and commercial machinery and equipment, metal production and automotive repair services.

In the United States:

The top 10 materials found on shipments through the Canal to the U.S. include: Kitchen and bathroom linens, electrical and photosensitive materials, construction materials such as floor, wall and ceiling polymers, vehicle parts and accessories, wheeled toys such as tricycles and scooters, furniture, plastics, athletic equipment, rubber and pharmaceutical materials.

The top 10 industries most impacted by this incident include: Grocery stores, department stores, auto and home supply stores, hardware stores, surgical and medical equipment suppliers, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning, semiconductor, general warehousing and storage, trucking and sporting goods.

Cargo by Lane Suez Canal Impact Analysis





Best Practices:

While the Ever Given was freed on March 29, we know that there will be great impact to global supply chains in the weeks and possibly months to come.

The incident identifies the urgency for companies to better understand and manage their global supply chains. Below are both near and long-term best practices to consider:

Near-Term Best Practices:

Assess – Complete an immediate assessment of your suppliers and suppliers’ suppliers to determine the impact to your own supply chain operation.

- How many tier 1 and 2 suppliers do you have in your supply chain that have been negatively impacted by this incident in the region?
- How urgently do you need the goods that are currently backlogged in the region of impact?

Identify – Determine your alternative suppliers in non-impacted regions of the world and engage them to offset the delays of suppliers in the impacted region. Determine:

- How long it will take to on-board them (i.e., do they have the suppliers you need?)
- How quickly will it take for those supplies to reach your location? Will it be faster than waiting for shipments from the impacted regions to reach you?

Longer-Term Best Practices:

Strategize - Develop a risk-based assessment process to identify and continuously monitor a variety of risks that could impact the productivity of your supply chain. Create a plan that support a flexible and agile network, regardless of circumstances and unexpected events.

Monitor – Continuously monitor your supply chain. Make sure that you are monitoring the risks associated with both your tier 1 and tier 2 suppliers to ensure your company has a complete view of the supply chain.

Invest – Today’s supply chain leaders are challenged by disparate systems, different data from varying resources and distributed teams and suppliers. Making technology investments today allows companies to better manage supply chain risk – giving them greater transparency into their entire supplier network, including goods in motion and downstream impacts on delays – while also serving up the data and insight needed to make informed decisions, particularly during unexpected events.



Methodology:

Dun & Bradstreet leverages its Data Cloud of 420M global businesses to identify the global supply chain impact.

- The data reflects the average number of vessels and goods found on-board that travel through the Suez Canal from Asia to Europe and reverse each year.
- Products and companies identified for this report were based on SIC and consignee number, which is also tied to Dun & Bradstreet's D-U-N-S Number.

E2open supply chain network data reflects actual container contents and real-time movements of vessels passing through the Suez Canal.

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"While considerable attention has focused on the economic value of cargo trapped on vessels and their inability to move through the Suez Canal, the financial impacts on downstream production that depend on the timely delivery of these materials is magnitudes greater. For instance, the delay of an inexpensive but crucial automotive part en route from China can prevent the sale of the entire vehicle in Germany.

The ability to peer inside containers, understand downstream business impacts of transport delays and systematically take corrective actions, provides a distinct competitive advantage for global businesses."

Pawan Joshi

Executive Vice President
Product Management and Strategy e2open

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