

The Journalist's Resource

Our November 12, 2021 tip sheet, “[6 tips for reporting on supply chain disruptions during Black Friday, Cyber Monday and the holiday shopping season](#),” contains dozens of links and sources that reporters will find valuable any time of the year for covering supply chain stories. Those links and sources are organized here for quick reference.

-Clark Merrefield, senior economics editor, [The Journalist's Resource](#)

Academic and other sources

[Joseph Sarkis](#), a professor at Worcester Polytechnic Institute who studies operations management.

[Simone Peinkofer](#), an assistant professor at Michigan State University who studies retail supply chain management.

[Christopher Atkinson](#), an assistant professor at the University of West Florida whose research has focused on business resilience during disasters.

There are hundreds of academic supply chain management programs around the country, making it likely journalists can find professors familiar with local or regional supply chain issues. Here are a few universities with supply chain programs:

[Michigan State](#); [The Ohio State University](#); the [University of Tennessee, Knoxville](#); [Auburn University](#); the [University of Arkansas](#).

Experts from trade groups that deal with supply chain challenges can provide a professional, third-party perspective. Some of these groups include:

The [National Retail Foundation](#); the [Association for Supply Chain Management](#); the [Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals](#); the [Association of American Railroads](#); the [American Association of Port Authorities](#).

Data sources

For information on prices and inflation, turn to the [consumer price index](#) from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. There is a [host of data](#) to explore, including [regional resources](#) on prices and inflation and historical [breakdowns of price changes by specific goods and services](#).

For shipping costs, the private firm [Drewry](#) offers free data on the price of shipping a 40-foot container, as well as for select major shipping routes.

[GoComet](#), a private logistics firm, offers free, live port congestion tracking for many large U.S. ports.

The U.S. Census Bureau's [Small Business Pulse Survey](#) captures how [supply chain disruptions are affecting small businesses](#). The Bureau's [USA Trade](#) portal, which requires a free sign-up, also offers data on specific commodities shipped through major port districts.

Private firm [Freightos](#) offers some free data on container shipping costs globally and for specific routes to and from the U.S.

[MarineTraffic](#) allows for live tracking of individual cargo vessels, providing a visual representation of the flow of ship traffic through U.S. and global ports. There are [several other websites](#) that provide similar services.

The federal government offers [free lagging data](#) on large vessels in U.S. ports and international waters.

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission [annual and quarterly](#) reports can provide insight on how publicly traded companies are handling supply chain disruptions. Search by company [here](#).

Most Fortune 500 companies publish an annual sustainability report with detail on how they are responding to a range of issues, from climate change to corporate diversity to supply chain disruptions. Here's one example, [from IBM](#).