

Global Economy 2.0: Trade, Talent, and Tech

The global economy is undergoing major shifts driven by long-term trends. Trade is evolving amid rising geopolitical tensions and protectionist policies, fragmenting global markets. Demographic changes are reshaping labor markets, with aging populations in wealthy nations and growing workforces in regions like Africa and Asia. Meanwhile, AI is redefining productivity, with the potential to significantly boost economic output. Understanding these forces is key to building a resilient, inclusive future.

Source: World Economic Forum

Supply Chain Shifts and ESG Goal Disruptions

The shift in global supply chains due to tariffs may disrupt data collection on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) metrics and delay carbon disclosure goals. Companies might face challenges in maintaining human rights and ethical practices as they change suppliers, potentially affecting compliance. Additionally, onshoring could simplify some compliance efforts but lead to risks if sourcing from questionable suppliers. Companies committed to sustainability should stick to core values and navigate these disruptions carefully.

Source: Trellis

Why Governance Is the New Sustainability Superpower

Governance, often overlooked in sustainability, is emerging as a powerful driver of supply chain resilience and compliance. Through collaborative governance—where companies, NGOs, governments, and suppliers work together—businesses can address complex sustainability issues more effectively. Strong supplier relationships and shared data platforms help tackle challenges like child labor, fragmented regulations, and inconsistent reporting. By focusing on personal connections, proactive engagement, and digital tools, companies can build transparent, agile, and future-ready supply chains.

Source: Supply Chain Brain

Tariff Turmoil: Why U.S. CEOs Are Bracing for a Recession

Over 60% of U.S. CEOs expect a recession or economic slowdown within six months, largely due to uncertainty caused by the Trump administration's tariff policies. Most CEOs disapprove of the tariffs, with many warning of rising costs and declining profits in 2025. Criticism of the trade approach is widespread, with some calling it harmful

NIST Privacy Framework 1.1 Update Enhances Privacy Risk Management

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has released a draft update of its Privacy Framework (PFW 1.1) to help organizations manage privacy risks related to personal data, aligning it with the recently updated Cybersecurity Framework (CSF). Notable changes include a revised core structure, a new section addressing AI

and poorly executed.

Source: Supply Chain Brain

and privacy risks, and improvements to usability with an interactive online FAQ and learning resources.

Source: NIST

Washington Cracks Down on PFAS in Biosolids

Washington State has passed an amendment to Senate Bill 5033, requiring biosolids facilities to begin quarterly PFAS testing by 2027, with results submitted by 2028. This phased, data-driven approach will inform policy decisions through a comprehensive statewide report due in 2029. The law emphasizes public health protection while maintaining the beneficial reuse of biosolids. It also establishes a dedicated permit fund to support oversight, technical assistance, and enforcement.

Source: Environment Energy Leader

Navigating Volatility: How Joint Ventures Are Shaping Europe's Megadeal Landscape

Despite macroeconomic volatility and trade tensions, European dealmakers are still finding success through large joint ventures (JVs), which offer more valuation alignment than traditional megadeals. While strategic takeovers dominate the megadeals list, rising market unpredictability is pushing companies toward creative deal structures like JVs and two-step acquisitions. Sectors like defense and auto remain hotbeds for such collaborations. Flexibility, collaboration, and patience are key to landing the next big trophy.

Source: Ion Analytics

Strengthening Supply Chains in an Era of Uncertainty

Supply chains remain vulnerable to macroeconomic shifts, natural disasters, and geopolitical unrest. Tariffs, extreme weather, and global conflicts could significantly disrupt operations and increase costs. To build resilience, companies must leverage tools like digital twins, AI, and game theory to model risks and respond proactively. Ultimately, human expertise is key to guiding tech-driven solutions.

Source: Forbes

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