



# Artificial intelligence – transforming global trade and commerce



Written by **Prologis**

**The world is rapidly changing, and at the forefront of this transformation is Artificial Intelligence (AI). Just as a ripple can create waves across a pond, AI is making waves in various industries, revolutionising the way things work.**

One such sector that's embracing the power of AI is the supply chain; backbone of global trade and commerce. Let's explore how AI is reshaping the landscape of logistics and why it's essential for the future.

Picture an assembly of vans, ships, planes, and warehouses working in perfect harmony to ensure that the latest gadgets reach your doorstep just in time. Behind this seemingly effortless operation is a complex network of processes collectively known as the supply chain.

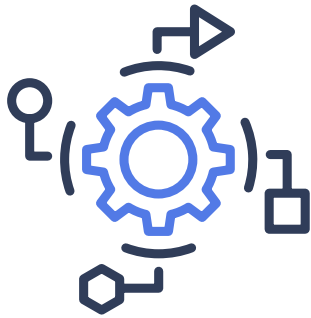
Traditionally, this relied heavily on human decision-making, which at times could lead to human error, delays, and increased costs.

However, the dawn of AI has ushered in a new era for the supply chain, transforming it into a well-oiled machine driven by data. Companies that recognise the potential of AI are not just staying afloat; they are thriving in an era of unprecedented connectivity and efficiency.

One of the key areas where AI is making a significant impact is in enhancing supply chain operations. Imagine a global streaming/gaming event happening with thousands of players at once – that's the power of AI in logistics. AI algorithms analyse vast amounts of data in real-time, helping people to make informed decisions, anticipate demand, and streamline their operations.

By analysing data, market trends, and even external factors like weather conditions, AI can predict what products will be in demand and where. This allows companies to adjust their inventory levels, ensuring they have just the right number of products in stock – no more, no less.

Traditional supply chain routes might not always be the most efficient. AI armed with data on traffic patterns, road conditions, and other variables, can chart the most efficient course for shipments, reducing transit times and costs.



**The dawn of AI has ushered in a new era for the supply chain, transforming it into a well-oiled machine driven by data.**

Step inside a modern warehouse today, and you might be greeted by some type of robots moving in sync assisting operatives with tasks! AI-driven robotics is transforming the way warehouses operate, making them more efficient and responsive to changing demands.

AI-powered robots can navigate through warehouses on their own, doing the picking and packing process. These robots can swiftly locate products, reducing the time it takes to fulfil orders. This not only speeds up delivery times but also minimises the margin for error, leading to a more accurate and reliable supply chain.

AI is enhancing inventory management by providing real-time visibility into stock levels. Automated systems can monitor inventory, track expiration dates, and even identify potential issues before they escalate. This level of precision ensures that products are always available when

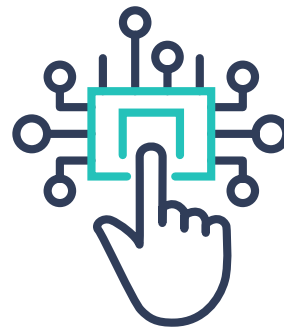


**AI can predict what products will be in demand and where, ensuring companies have just the right number of products in stock – no more, no less.**

needed, minimising stockouts and overstock situations.

While AI is undoubtedly a game-changer in the supply chain industry, it's important to understand that it's not here to replace humans but to support our capabilities. The relationship between humans and AI is creating a workforce that is more agile, adaptable, and capable of handling the layers of modern logistics.

AI handles the repetitive, data-intensive tasks, allowing human workers to focus on more strategic and creative aspects of their jobs. This collaboration results in a workforce that is not just efficient but also more creative and engaged in their work.



**AI handles the repetitive, data-intensive tasks, allowing human workers to focus on more strategic and creative aspects of their jobs.**

As we delve deeper into the era of AI-powered logistics, it's essential to acknowledge the challenges and ethical considerations that come with this technological revolution. Ethical considerations also come into play when it comes to data privacy and security. With the massive amount of data involved in AI-driven logistics, it's crucial to ensure that this information is handled responsibly and ethically. Companies must implement robust cybersecurity measures and adhere to strict privacy standards to protect both their customers and their operations.

The integration of AI into the supply chain is not just a technological advancement; it's a shift that is reshaping the foundations of logistics. Companies that embrace AI are not only staying ahead of the curve but are also contributing to a more sustainable and efficient global supply chain.

For young people, understanding the role of AI

in logistics is not just about keeping up with the latest trends; it's about preparing for a future where technology and human skill work hand in hand. The supply chain of tomorrow will be defined by innovation, collaboration, and a commitment to creating a world where goods can move seamlessly, efficiently, and sustainably from one corner of the globe to another. As we stand on the edge of this exciting future, the question is not whether to embrace AI but how to harness its power responsibly for the benefit of all.

---

### Suggested further reading:

Find out more about Prologis and career opportunities:

[Careers with Prologis](#)

[Prologis news: Supply chain industry leaders embrace AI or get left behind](#)

### About the author

Prologis is a leading investor and property developer in logistics. With over 20 years' experience, Prologis are proud to make places where businesses can grow, employees can thrive and communities and wildlife flourish.

Prologis puts sustainability at the heart of our business – we're proud to be building some of the most sustainable logistics buildings in the world. In 2021 Prologis opened The Hub at DIRFT, an award-winning centre for logistics training and education. The Hub is the home of the Prologis Warehouse & Logistics Training Programme.

