



The ACA Group is an alliance of operations and supply chain experts.

Operational Performance
Improvement Newsletter

Strategies for Improving Business Performance
2016

December,

 Send to a Colleague

Welcome

We'd like to wish you a Happy New Year!



What are your plans to kick off 2017? A few hot topics to think about..... 1) The strategic use of data. 2) Leveraging S&OP (SIOP) to achieve bottom line business results. 3) Speed.

We have several exciting classes starting in early 2017 to build on your supply chain skills - think about CSCP (certified supply chain professional) or CLTD (certified in logistics, transportation and distribution) - register early to reserve your seat.

Here's to a successful 2017!

Technologies Transforming
Supply Chain

The ACA Group
Partner Spotlight



Modern marvels and new information technologies are transforming supply chains. Automation, robots, AI (artificial

intelligence), 3D Printing, Bitcoin technology and the IoT (internet of things) are changing the way we look at supply chains. Are you thinking about any of these technologies down-the-line? Or are you thinking about the impacts of your competitors pursuing them? You should!

We partner with clients to keep them at the forefront of these information technologies. At the core, we partner with executives to help them select the optimal ERP system to support their business objectives. Certainly, automation has always been a hot topic. Recently, AI and predictive analysis have become popular as executives think about making strategic decisions. Many clients are also thinking about the strategic value of data and how they can utilize data from their extended supply chain for mutual benefit.

We remember robots being tested 25 years ago and so they are not "new" yet they are gaining in popularity. One method to become cost competitive with low labor rate countries, yet source supply closer to customers for rapid delivery, is to automate. Using robots and automated conveyor systems is commonplace in distribution and material handling. Manufacturers are also gaining steam on these topics. Are you evaluating these alternatives? At a bare minimum, my most successful clients are evaluating,

[Read the rest of the article](#)



[Doug Howardell, CPIM, PMP](#)

Specializes in helping clients improve their business practices and processes.

During the past twenty-five years, Doug Howardell has designed new processes and tools, selected and implemented new business systems, and managed business process improvement projects.

He has extensive experience and expertise in all aspects of project management, change management and materials management.

Additionally, Mr. Howardell has long experience teaching and training. He has been an instructor in the California State University system since 1988. [more](#)

Service Focus:

**Organizational
Development**

Risk in Global Supply Chain Is on the Rise

According to the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS) risk index, risk is the highest since 2013.



It is easy to become

complacent. Are you adding risk into your supply chain conversations and plans?

The increase is driven by supply chain risk in Western and Central Europe, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa. Specifically:

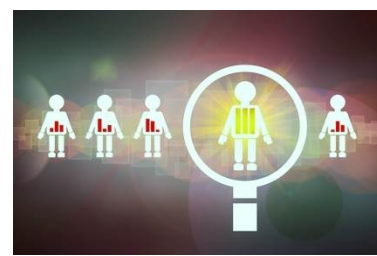
- **Western Europe** - This trend is clearest in Western Europe, where risk rose to 2.63 in Q3 from 2.60 in the previous quarter. The uncertainty around the post-Brexit relationship between the UK and the European Union has had a negative impact on trade and business sentiment in the UK and across the region.
- **North America** - North America remains static at 2.101, but both Canada and the USA have seen trade agreements with the European Union stall this quarter.
- **Eastern Europe and Central Asia** - In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, risk has risen to 5.424 from 5.396, following a failed coup in Turkey which is likely to see an increase in interference with businesses.

[Read the rest of the article](#)

The ACA Group:

Additional Resources

Access [The ACA Group](#) library of materials on [Enterprise Resource Planning](#), [Organizational Development](#), [Lean Enterprise](#) and [Supply Chain Management](#).



Start Your New Year with Training & Development

In addition to consulting on organizational development topics, we also provide training and development. It is a core element of the ACA toolkit and includes:

- ERP/ MRP
- Lean Operations
- Inventory Management and Distribution
- Project Management
- Team Building
- Customer Service
- APICS Certification Review, CPIM, CSCP
- Sales & Operations Planning, (SIOP)

All of classes will be conducted in-house at the clients' facilities. We can also develop or customize classes tailored to your specific needs, or industry. Our associates/ instructors are all highly experienced, and are professionally certified by APICS, ISM, PMI, and other professional societies.

We partner with our clients to achieve results and align training with business objectives!

[Learn More.](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

ISM Port of Los Angeles Tour 2017

January 20, 2017
San Pedro, Calif.

Lean Enterprise Workshop

January 23, 2017
Santa Clarita, Calif.

Certified in Logistics, Transportation and Distribution (CLTD)

Starting February 4, 2017
Corona, Calif.

Certified Supply Chain Professional (CSCP)

Starting February 14, 2017
Santa Clarita, Calif.



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STAY IN TOUCH



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