



Key Advice

Steps for a supply chain for producing jeans

1. Research and Understand the Supply Chain

Start by researching and understanding the typical supply chain for jeans. Learn about the different stages, from raw material sourcing to manufacturing, distribution, and retail.

2. Identify Key Stakeholders

Identify the key stakeholders involved in the supply chain, such as cotton growers, fabric manufacturers, garment factories, distributors, retailers and customers.

3. Map the Flow of Materials

Create a flowchart or diagram to map the flow of materials from the raw materials stage to the finished jeans. Identify the processes and locations involved at each stage.

4. Determine Manufacturing and Sourcing Locations

Decide where the jeans will be manufactured and sourced. Consider factors such as cost, quality, sustainability and ethical considerations.

5. Establish Supplier Relationships

Identify and establish relationships with suppliers for raw materials, fabrics, trims and other components needed for jeans production. Ensure that suppliers meet quality and sustainability standards.

6. Plan Production and Inventory Management

Develop a production plan, including production volumes, lead times and inventory management strategies. Consider factors like demand forecasting, order management and production scheduling.

7. Coordinate Logistics and Distribution

Determine the most efficient logistics and distribution channels to transport jeans from manufacturers to retailers. Consider factors such as transportation modes, warehousing and fulfilment centres.

8. Implement Technology and Data Management

Explore and implement digital tools and technologies to facilitate the flow of information and data within the supply chain. This may include using supply chain management software, inventory tracking systems and electronic data interchange (EDI).



9. Monitor and Improve Performance

Continuously monitor the performance of the supply chain. Measure key performance indicators (KPIs) such as lead times, delivery accuracy, inventory turnover and customer satisfaction. Identify areas for improvement and implement corrective actions.

10. Consider Sustainability and Ethical Practices

Integrate sustainability and ethical considerations throughout the supply chain. Promote responsible sourcing, fair labour practices and environmentally friendly manufacturing processes.

Examples of actors in the jeans supply chain are:

- Retailer
- Jeans brand company (design styles)
- Jeans manufacturer (cutting and sewing)
- Denim manufacturer
- Denim dyer
- Denim weaver
- Yarn spinner
- Cotton trader
- Cotton farmer
- All the traders and transporters that connect the above actors

Note 1: Differentiate between owners and workers.

Note 2: An extensive way of viewing actors is to include:

- *Land quality*
- *Water quality (rivers – seas/oceans)*
- *Biodiversity (use of pesticides and dyes)*
- *Air quality*