## Demand Forecasting

Walmart sells products from over 70 countries around the world, and its governed inventory is worth approximately $32 billion USD. Walmart collaborates carefully with its vendors to ensure that processes meet consumer demand during both relatively constant and good activity times. The delivery centers at Walmart are managed with the main goal of getting products to the stores where they are needed as rapidly as feasible and without having to incur the extra expense of holding or stashing perishable products for extended periods of time. In order to effectively control its vendors, Walmart collaborates closely with producers to reduce costs and control management techniques (Ref-DJ49KL). Walmart has created a program called Vendor Managed Inventory (VMI) in which manufacturers are responsible for overseeing their own products inside of Walmart's distribution centers.

Walmart's own shipping fleet continuously distributes goods to its 120 million square foot system of 160 distribution facilities, that are flawlessly located within an accumulation of 130 miles of the stores it serves (Ref-J7Y3B2). Moving goods from one loading dock to the next can take as little as 24 hours. The trucking crew at Walmart is also in charge of "backhauling," or bringing it back unsellable items from local retailers to fulfillment centers. According to Truckers Logic (Ref-9X2Z1A), Walmart's trucking squad and operators have met the high standard of 250,000 hours of road time without any avoidable tragedies for at most 3 years.

Demand forecasting is one of Walmart's most difficult supply chain management challenges. In order to forecast market expectations, Walmart must pay close interest to prior analysis of data. The gathering of statistical information on current and new products will lay the groundwork for future interactions with producers and suppliers.