**Supply Chain Trends**

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There are multiple trends emerging in the supply chain, but there were a few that stood out to me the most. While reading the article “10 Trends for the Next 10 Years,” I became more aware of the macroeconomic factors that play a role in predicting trends and changes in supply chains. The author, Sumantra Sengupta, talks about the major growth of GDP in the countries of Brazil, Russia, India, and China, and that their consumers account for about 40 percent of the worlds population. When taking these macroeconomic factors into account, I can definitely see why there is are new trends emerging in the supply chain. The first trend Sengupta introduces is that service chains will become more important than product chains. Since consumers are largely in charge and have access to as much information as suppliers, the companies must set themselves apart by listening to customer concerns and providing excellent pre- and post- service. The second trend is that “knowledge work and workers will become global in nature,” (Sengupta). Since knowledge works counts for 40 percent of the labor hours spent, there is a much higher need for multi-language support. The author uses the example that a U.S. company could have supply chain planning in the Philippines, operate procurement centers in Singapore, and conduct global business analytics in Brazil. The third trend that I learned was “use of Internet-based communication systems to increase visibility of supply chain activities and enable real-time decisions” (Supply Chain Management: Cutting Waste and Reducing Nodes Drives Your Supply Chain Bottom Line). This will increase the efficiency and flexibility of the supply chain.

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