Why Supply Chain Visibility Still Fails — Even with Modern Systems (06/08/2026)

QUANTIVOR LTD
atanasovalanalytics.com

Manufacturers, distributors and FMCG businesses are collecting more operational data than ever. Yet most management teams still struggle to answer three basic questions quickly:

- Which products are tying up working capital?
- Which suppliers create the greatest exposure?
- Which forecasts are consistently unreliable?

Two recent open-access studies — a systematic review of smart manufacturing data practices (2020–2025) and a 2026 analysis of visibility and traceability gaps — reveal the same conclusion:

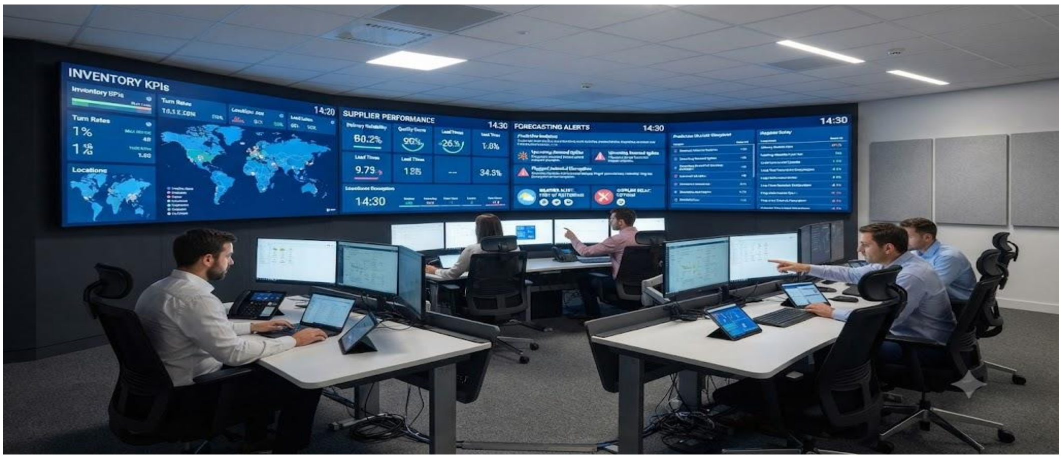
Data is everywhere, but usable visibility is still rare.

The Core Problem: Fragmented, Unreliable Operational Data

Across 55 peer-reviewed studies, researchers found that supply chain data suffers from:

- inconsistent update frequency
- mismatched formats across ERP, WMS, MES and spreadsheets
- siloed reporting structures
- unclear ownership and governance
- legacy systems that cannot communicate
- spreadsheet dependency that hides errors

Even organisations with advanced sensors, automation, and dashboards still operate with **data fragmentation**, which directly blocks operational visibility.



The 2026 visibility study adds that traceability failures — unclear provenance, missing timestamps, inconsistent granularity — make it impossible to trust KPIs or supplier performance.

Operational Impact: Visibility Gaps Become Business Risks

When data is fragmented or unreliable, managers cannot make confident decisions. This leads to:

- inflated safety stock
- inaccurate inventory positions
- slow reporting cycles
- reactive purchasing
- unreliable forecasting
- wasted working capital
- poor supplier accountability

The systematic review shows that even **5% deterioration in data quality** can reduce forecasting accuracy by **15–20%**. That is a direct hit to margin, service levels and operational stability.

Why a Business Readiness Assessment Is Now Essential

Before investing in dashboards, automation or AI, organisations need a **Business Readiness Assessment** to identify:

- data-quality issues
- reporting gaps
- spreadsheet dependency

- visibility failures
- governance weaknesses
- integration risks

This ensures that future Power BI dashboards, automation workflows or forecasting models are built on **clean, consistent, governed data** — not on operational noise.

A readiness assessment provides:

- a clear view of current risks
- a practical improvement roadmap
- priority recommendations
- a foundation for scalable analytics
- confidence before larger investments

The Unresolved Question

If your operational data is inconsistent today, how confident can you be in tomorrow's dashboards, forecasts or automation?

Read the complete analysis and complete the free Business Readiness Scorecard:

👉 **Complete the Business Readiness Scorecard**

[Free Inventory Risk Scorecard | Quantivor Ltd]