



Call for Papers

IFORS/Elsevier

Sustainability Analytics and Modeling

Special Issue (SI) on

Sustainable and resilient retail supply chains

Addressing current and future challenges in modern retailing

1. Aims and Scope of the SI

Retail supply chains are the key to ensuring efficiency, customer satisfaction, and long-term success in an increasingly globalized and dynamic market environment. The pivotal role of the retail industry in our daily lives and societal trends is reflected by the importance of the retail sector for any economy. For instance, wholesale and retail account for around 10% of gross value added in Europe, and with 30 million employees, around 13% of all workers are employed in the retail sector. Research in this area has therefore gained increasing attention and is well-needed across all retail sectors, from grocery to fashion retailing and consumer electronics. Major challenges for retailers are ensuring efficient operations while reflecting sustainability and resilience issues. Retail substantially contributes to emissions, resource consumption, and waste, driving the need for sustainable solution approaches. Simultaneously, retailers face increasing uncertainties in global markets, disrupting their operations and potentially threatening entire supply chains. Potential threats are climate impacts, political issues, and pandemics. These challenges must be incorporated into the planning approaches and require advanced decision support and tools.

Analytics and modeling are important levers to enhance the economic, environmental, and social sustainability of retail supply chains. This special issue aims to identify innovative contributions for sustainable and resilient retail operations via data-driven, quantitative, and future-oriented decision support. The special issue offers an excellent outlet for high-quality research approaches. The methodology used should align with the scope of the journal and include operations research, quantitative modeling and/or analytical approaches. We especially embrace contributions with a background in the retail industry or consumer goods, considering every part of the supply chain, from production to consumption.

2. Topics of the SI

Sustainability Analytics and Modeling publishes articles that develop and apply quantitative methods of analytics and operations research to take on global sustainability challenges. These challenges are many and broad in scope. They involve poverty, hunger, health, well-being, education, equality, water, sanitation, energy, economies, industry, infrastructure systems, smart communities, consumption and production, climate, peace, and justice, among other topics, all of which are targeted by the [17 sustainable development goals \(SDGs\) of the United Nations](#). Topics that are of interest for this special issue include, but are not limited to:

- Combining social, environmental, and economic perspectives in retail supply chains;
- Concepts of circular economy in retailing (e.g., in consumer electronics and fashion);

- Advanced inventory management to reduce waste, losses, and overstocking;
- Prevention, reduction, and mitigation of food waste along the supply chain;
- Social and environmental impact of retail digitalization, omnichannel retailing, and new business models in retail services (e.g., food services);
- Agricultural operations for sustainable and resilient food production and distribution;
- New strategies for product launches and product proliferation;
- Increasing transparency in international supply chains and manufacturer-retailer cooperation;
- Innovative distribution concepts (e.g., omnichannel retailing) and their impact on sustainability;
- Last-mile delivery concepts and their environmental impacts;
- Resilient retail operations and multi-echelon supply chains; and
- Interface of retail operations with other functions such as finance, human resources, marketing, and strategy to increase company sustainability.

3. Submission Guidelines

The Article Publishing Charge (APC) fee will be covered by the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS). Submitted papers must be original works not previously published or currently considered for publication elsewhere. The manuscripts should be prepared according to the [Guide for Authors](#).

All manuscripts should be submitted electronically using the journal's online manuscript submission system (<https://www.editorialmanager.com/samod/>). When prompted for the article type, please select, "**VSI: Retail Supply Chains**".

On the Attach Files screen, please submit the Manuscript, Highlights, Cover Letter summarizing the paper's contribution, and Conflict of Interest Declaration (template available at https://service.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/286/supporthub/publishing).

At the Review Preferences screen, you may suggest potential reviewers for this submission and provide specific reasons for your suggestion in the comments box for each person.

Manuscripts submitted after the deadline may not be considered for the special issue and may be transferred, if accepted, to a regular issue.

4. Important Dates

Eligible submissions will be quickly submitted to the peer review process by the guest editors. The guest editors will work to ensure a **maximum time of 10 weeks** for the initial peer review process. Accepted papers will be published online quickly after acceptance such that **papers submitted early will also be published well ahead of the special issue's scheduled publication date**.

Submission opens: **April 1, 2025**

Deadline for submissions: **December 31, 2025**

Targeted closure of first peer review process: March 10, 2026

(Latest) Publication: Fall 2026

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