

Uber Freight

Freight in the fast lane: 12 must-have logistics KPIs for automotive suppliers



For automotive suppliers, logistics and supply chain management leave no room for error. With tight schedules, demanding quality standards, and razor-thin margins, getting the right part in the right place at the right time is non-negotiable. Late deliveries or damaged shipments can ripple through production lines, causing costly disruptions and loss of customer confidence.

In an industry driven by precision, measuring the right metrics can mean the difference between thriving and merely surviving. By combining the right technology, real-time insights, and a robust carrier network, automotive suppliers can track, improve, and dominate the key performance indicators (KPIs) that matter most.

Here are the top KPIs for assessing and optimizing your automotive supply chain – and how they can be used to drive the right results.

01

Lead time (Procurement & Production)

Definition: The time it takes for goods to move from order placement to production readiness.

Why it matters: Every second counts in automotive manufacturing. Shorter lead times mean fewer disruptions and greater operational efficiency.

Drive results: A transparent load tracking system reduces guesswork, helping you align production schedules with supplier delivery timelines. With access to dynamic routing options, you can avoid delays caused by congestion or other disruptions.

02

Supplier fill rates

Definition: The percentage of supplier orders that are completely fulfilled based on your order requirements.

Why it matters: Low fill rates result in delayed orders, production interruptions, and potentially lost revenue. If a supplier under-ships from what's established on their Advanced Shipping Notice (ASN), that can result in production changes and higher shipping costs over time to completely fulfill the order.

Drive results: Leverage a supplier order management solution within a TMS to efficiently confirm orders and manage exceptions throughout the order lifecycle to improve inventory management. This capability reduces the need for emails and increases visibility into the status of orders.

03

Supplier on-time delivery

Definition: The percentage of parts or components delivered on time by suppliers.

Why it matters: A reliable supplier network ensures consistent production schedules and prevents costly disruptions.

Drive results: With a TMS that provides real-time supplier delivery updates, you always know where your components are and when they'll arrive. Proactive communication and alerts allow you to address issues before they affect production.

04

Unplanned orders

Definition: An order received by the company or logistics department that does not fit into the schedule based on the forecast.

Why it matters: A minimum amount of unexpected shipments is a sign of a stable inbound supply chain.

Drive results: Teams should monitor how many unplanned orders pop up in their queue and how it impacts process efficiency.

05

Perfect order rate

Definition: The percentage of orders delivered on time, complete, and undamaged.

Why it matters: Customers and assembly lines count on you to get it right the first time, every time.

Drive results: A platform like **Uber Freight TMS** ensures end-to-end shipment monitoring, reducing risks of damage or misplacement. Predictive analytics ensure orders meet quality standards before they leave the dock, keeping your Perfect Order Rate in check.

06

Freight cost per unit

Definition: The cost of transporting each unit of product.

Why it matters: Keeping logistics expenses predictable helps protect your bottom line without sacrificing quality or speed.

Drive results: Leverage predictive pricing tools to evaluate cost-efficient shipping options based on lane rates. Dynamic quoting features can help you find opportunities to reduce freight costs without compromising performance.

07

Transportation efficiency

Definition: The percentage of transportation orders completed on time using optimal routes and methods.

Why it matters: Optimized transportation saves time and money while reducing stress on your supply chain.

Drive results: Expert logistics teams with advanced route optimization capabilities ensure your shipments reach their destination via the fastest, most cost-efficient paths. They can support low/no inventory strategies at production plants and provide insights that identify opportunities to reduce empty miles and improve delivery times.

08

On-time delivery

Definition: The percentage of orders delivered to the customer or assembly line on time.

Why it matters: Automotive operates in a synchronous flow, consuming the delivery of freight at a production plant quickly after delivery. Very little inventory is held at a production plant. Even a small delay can throw off an entire day's production. Reliable OTIF metrics mean reliable production schedules.

Drive results: With real-time freight tracking, you know exactly when your shipment will arrive, allowing proactive adjustments if delays occur. Leverage a **robust carrier network** through a strategic logistics partner to secure capacity, even during peak demand or market volatility.

09

Inventory turnover

Definition: The number of times inventory is sold or used in a period.

Why it matters: A healthy inventory turnover rate means your parts inventory is neither overstocked nor understocked, saving you money without risking shortages.

Drive results: Efficient delivery scheduling supports Just-in-Time (JIT) inventory systems, so you don't need to store excess parts. With real-time data, you can optimize inventory flow, minimizing waste and maximizing cash flow.

10

Stockouts and backorders

Definition: The number of times items are unavailable or delayed due to inventory shortages.

Why it matters: Stockouts halt production, disrupt schedules, and hurt customer trust.

Drive results: Real-time tracking keeps your supply chain updated, reducing stockouts by ensuring materials arrive precisely when needed. Seamless coordination helps manage complex logistics flows, minimizing the risks of delays.

11

Quality defects per shipment

Definition: The percentage of defective items received from suppliers in each shipment.

Why it matters: In the automotive industry, precision is everything, and any defect can bring production to a standstill.

Drive results: Monitoring tools ensure that critical quality checks are embedded within the logistics process. Predictive data highlights patterns and pain points in supplier performance, enabling corrective actions before issues escalate.

12

Total Logistics Cost (TLC)

Definition: Considers the entire range of costs associated with logistics, including transport and warehousing costs and inventory carrying, administration, and order processing costs.

Why it matters: (TLC) is measured to understand and optimize the efficiency of a company's logistics operations by identifying areas for cost reduction while maintaining service levels.

Drive results: Analyzing total logistics cost helps businesses identify areas within their supply chain where they can optimize processes and reduce overall expenses.

Ready to drive your logistics performance?

Achieving world-class supply chain KPIs is easy with a partner like Uber Freight. Let us help you streamline logistics, boost reliability, and cut costs—all while delivering the transparency and precision the automotive industry demands.

Uber Freight: A strategic logistics partner for automotive suppliers

Increase efficiency, end-to-end visibility, and cost savings with Uber Freight, a strategic partner with the industry-leading combination of technology, expertise, and capacity. We offer intelligent logistic solutions tailored to the complex Tier 1, Tier 2, and aftermarket supplier needs, enabling scalable operations for diverse product requirements, from high-precision components to bulk shipments. Uber Freight provides Managed Transportation Services, Transportation Management System (TMS), Cross-border and Customs to Supply chain Consulting and Dynamic Capacity Solutions to support PFEP strategies and ensure just-in-time delivery.

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