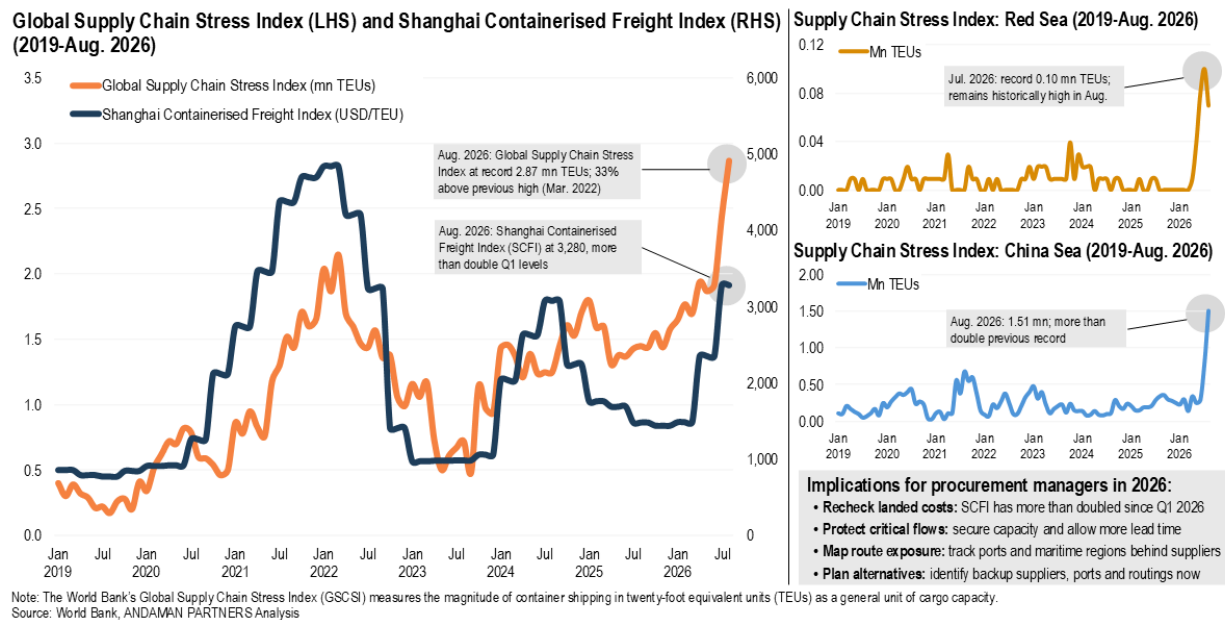


Global Supply Chain Stress Is Surging in 2026, With Record Pressure in Key Regions

Rising freight rates and severe regional disruption are increasing lead-time, landed-cost and delivery risks for global procurement teams.



Global supply chains are coming under renewed pressure in 2026. Supply-chain stress means more containers being caught up in delays, congestion and longer journeys through the global shipping system. The World Bank's Global Supply Chain Stress Index reached a record 2.87 million TEUs in August, 33% above its previous 2022 high, while the Shanghai Containerised Freight Index has more than doubled since Q1.

The pressure is global but highly uneven across maritime regions. Several remain elevated, while a smaller number have seen exceptional increases in 2026. Two of the clearest are the China Sea, where stress has more than doubled its previous record, and the Red Sea, which reached a record high in July.

For procurement teams, this means that a competitive supplier price increasingly tells only part of the story. Higher freight rates, longer lead times and disruption along critical shipping corridors can quickly increase the true landed cost of an input or delay its arrival altogether. Diversifying suppliers does not necessarily diversify risk if those suppliers ultimately depend on the same ports and shipping routes.

The practical response is straightforward: recheck landed costs, allow more time for critical shipments, understand the routes behind key suppliers and identify alternative suppliers, ports

ANDAMAN PARTNERS

September 2026

andamanpartners.com

ANDAMAN
PARTNERS

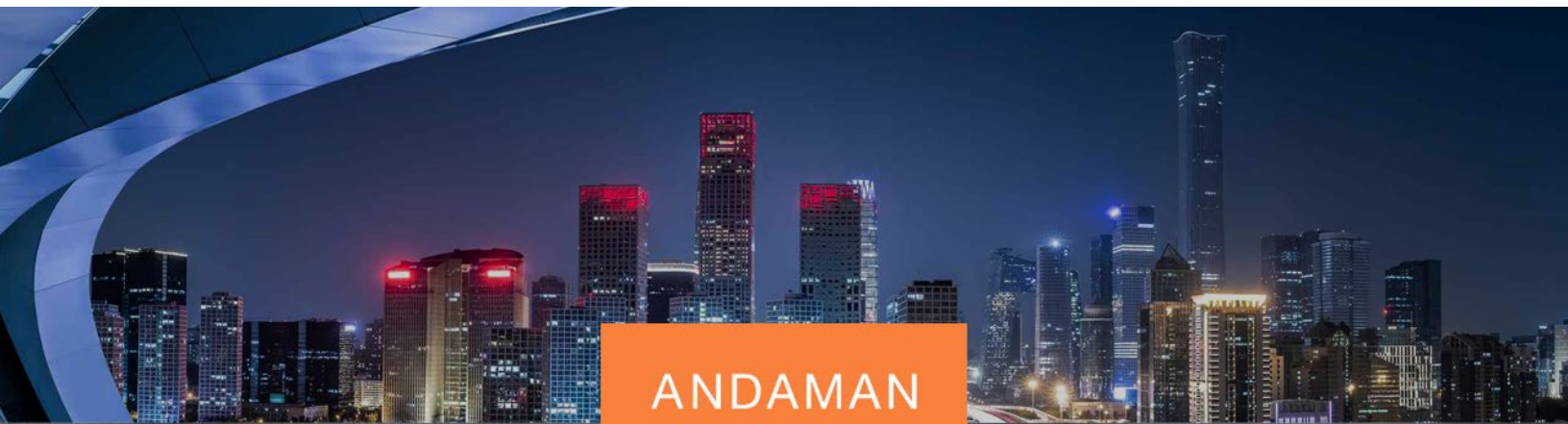
and routings before they are needed. In 2026, procurement resilience is increasingly about knowing not only what you buy and from whom, but how it gets to you.

Also by ANDAMAN PARTNERS:

- [Trade Policy Uncertainty Has Become a Structural Feature of the Global Economy](#)
- [The World's Trade Choke Points: Six Narrow Straits that Move the Global Economy](#)
- [Supply Chain Stress Remains Elevated in 2026, Demanding Clear Procurement Leadership](#)

ANDAMAN PARTNERS *supports international business ventures and growth. We help launch global initiatives and accelerate successful expansion across borders. If your business, operations or project requires cross-border support, contact connect@andamanpartners.com.*

-----///-----



ANDAMAN
PARTNERS

Global Cross-Border Business Solutions

Investment  Advisory  Trade

Shanghai | Hong Kong | Singapore | Perth | Bangkok | Cape Town

www.andamanpartners.com