



# WHY INVENTORY?

## 5 REASONS FOR KEEPING INVENTORY

Supply chain: from raw materials till consumer



Raw materials



Suppliers



Manufacturer



Distribution



Retail



Consumer

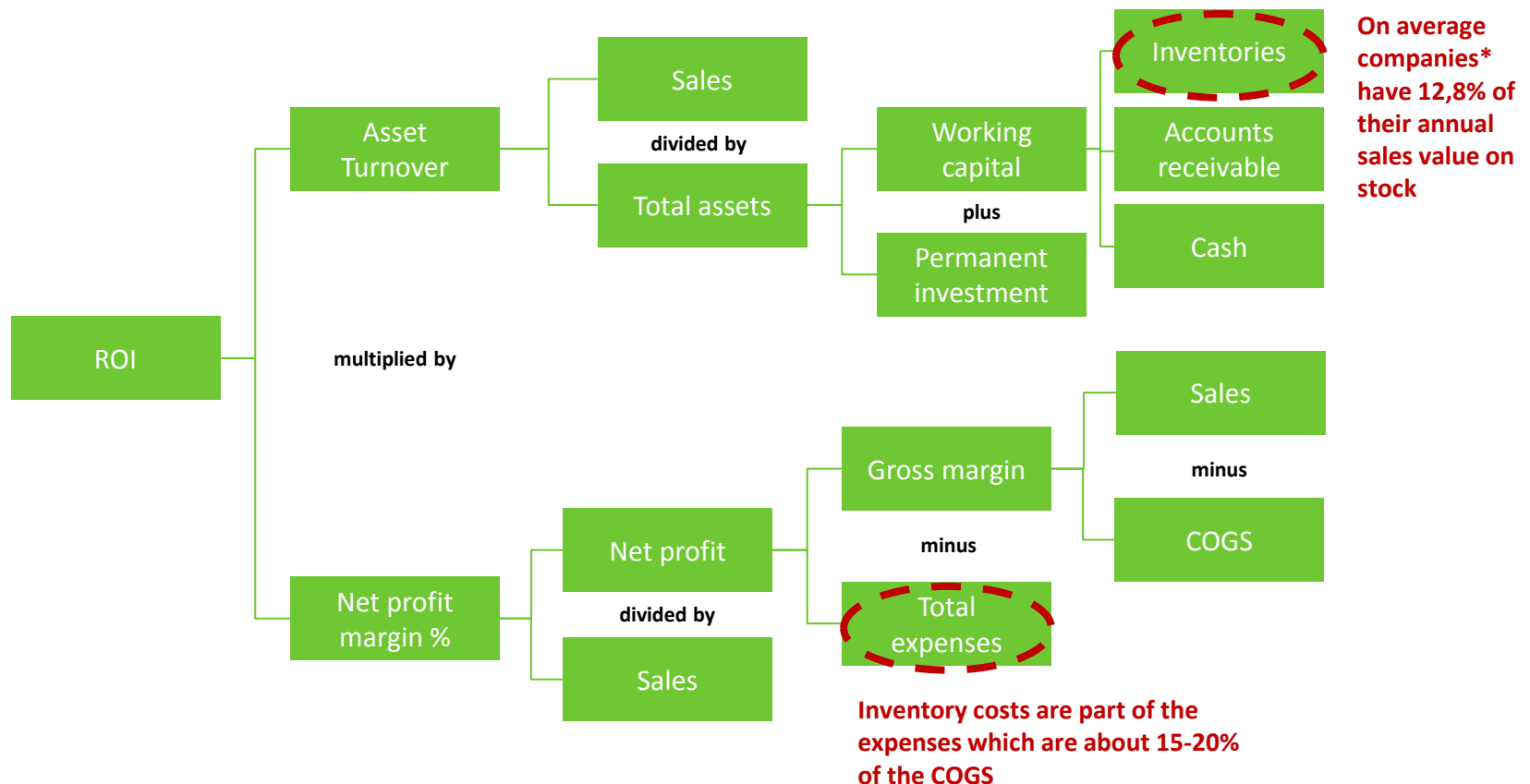
Supply chain: from raw materials till consumer

- **Strategic:** trading & speculation
- **Capacity:** limited capacity requires stockbuild (e.g. seasonality)
- **Order quantity:** economic to order more than 1 pcs.
- **Uncertainty:** demand -, supply quantity and lead times
- **Lead time:** Coverage of lead time demand

# The impact of inventory on Return On Investment

INVENTORY IMPACTS THE ASSET TURNOVER AND NET PROFIT MARGIN

DuPont chart: Inventory affects asset efficiency and net profit



Inventory reduction results in an **increase** of **asset turnover** and **net profit margin**. Meaning that the **ROI** is leveraged from both sides. A lean inventory is a key issue to become an **industry leader**.

\*source: working capital benchmark PwC July 2014

# Inventory management scale

ASSESS YOUR COMPANY INVENTORY MANAGEMENT MATURITY

## Level of professionalism in inventory management

Symptoms	50-60%	60-80%	80-95%	Up to 99,9%	Up to 99,9%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gut feeling inventory management</li> <li>• Many back orders</li> <li>• No idea about stock quantities and service level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Days on inventory policies</li> <li>• Excel based computations</li> <li>• Inventory is monitored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic statistic inventory calculations (P1) based on historic demand</li> <li>• ERP or Excel based computations</li> <li>• Inventory is monitored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demand and forecast planning</li> <li>• S&amp;OP processes</li> <li>• Single echelon inventory optimization (P2)</li> <li>• Inventory is monitored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demand and forecast planning</li> <li>• S&amp;OP processes</li> <li>• Multi-echelon inventory optimization</li> <li>• Inventory specialist</li> </ul>
Service level:	50-60%	60-80%	80-95%	Up to 99,9%	Up to 99,9%
Potential:	Base Case	Limited	20-30%	30-50%	> 50%

# Inventory strategy

## THE MAIN 4 CONSIDERATIONS

---

- The value density of a product
- The criticality of a product for the continuity of your operation (internal as external)
- Predictability and variability of the demand
- Supplier lead-time and reliability

# Straightforward extrapolations

## ASSESS YOUR COMPANY INVENTORY MANAGEMENT MATURITY

### Level of professionalism in inventory management

Symptoms	50-60%	60-80%	80-95%	Up to 99,9%	Up to 99,9%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gut feeling inventory management</li> <li>• Many back orders</li> <li>• No idea about stock quantities and service level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Days on inventory policies</li> <li>• Excel based computations</li> <li>• Inventory is monitored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic statistic inventory calculations (P1) based on historic demand</li> <li>• ERP or Excel based computations</li> <li>• Inventory is monitored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demand and forecast planning</li> <li>• S&amp;OP processes</li> <li>• Single echelon inventory optimization (P2)</li> <li>• Inventory is monitored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demand and forecast planning</li> <li>• S&amp;OP processes</li> <li>• Multi-echelon inventory optimization</li> <li>• Inventory specialist</li> </ul>
Service level:	50-60%	60-80%	80-95%	Up to 99,9%	Up to 99,9%
Potential:	Base Case	Limited	20-30%	30-50%	> 50%

# Straightforward extrapolations

PRAGMATIC, BUT NOT NECESSARILY WRONG

## KANBAN



## PULL KANBAN



# Singe echelon optimization

## ASSESS YOUR COMPANY INVENTORY MANAGEMENT MATURITY

### Level of professionalism in inventory management

Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gut feeling inventory management</li> <li>Many back orders</li> <li>No idea about stock quantities and service level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Days on inventory policies</li> <li>Excel based computations</li> <li>Inventory is monitored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic statistic inventory calculations (P1) based on historic demand</li> <li>ERP or Excel based computations</li> <li>Inventory is monitored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demand and forecast planning</li> <li>S&amp;OP processes</li> <li>Single echelon inventory optimization (P2)</li> <li>Inventory is monitored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demand and forecast planning</li> <li>S&amp;OP processes</li> <li>Multi-echelon inventory optimization</li> <li>Inventory specialist</li> </ul>
Service level:	50-60%	60-80%	80-95%	Up to 99,9%	Up to 99,9%
Potential:	Base Case	Limited	20-30%	30-50%	> 50%



# Single echelon optimization

## STATISTICAL BASIC INVENTORY OPTIMIZATION

- **Four steps**

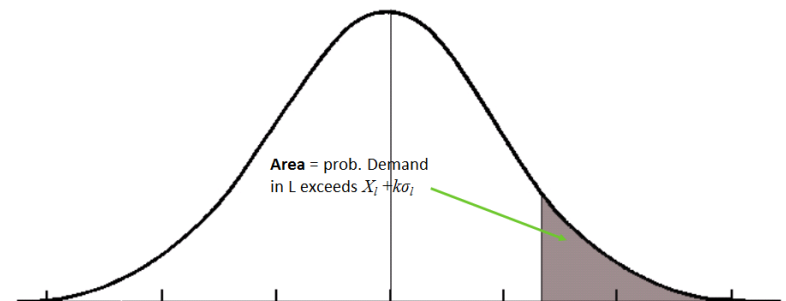
1. Historic demand data
2. Distribution fitting to lead time demand
3. Implementation of basic safety stock calculations
4. Calculate (and simulate)

- **Frequent mistakes**

- Incorrect formulas
- Excluding uncertainty in supply
- Misunderstanding of inventory position

- **Best practices**

- One year historic demand
- Weekly time buckets
- Frequency: twice per year



# Safety stock based on service levels and charges

## SAFETY STOCK DECISION RULES

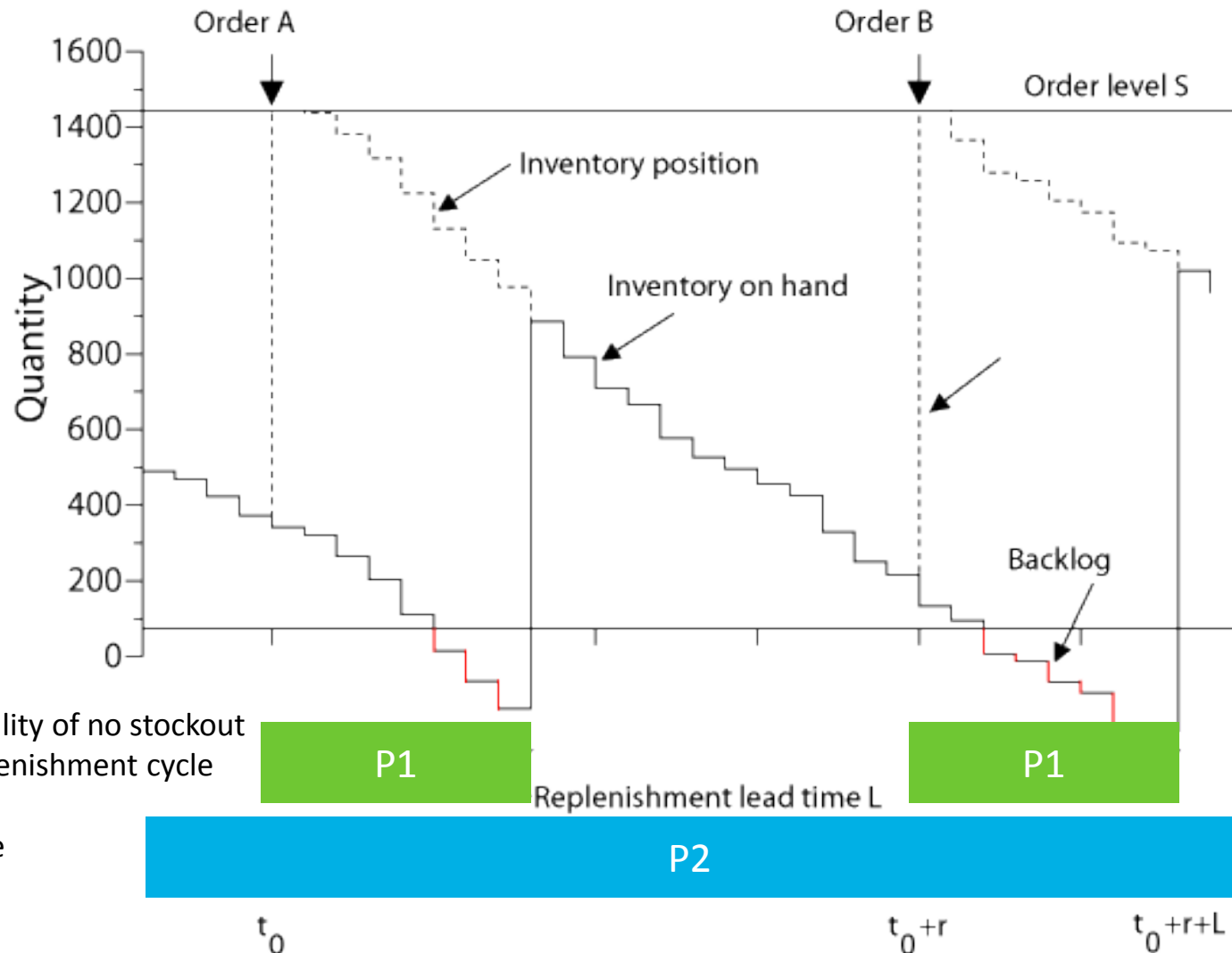
---

- Specified Probability (**P1**) of No Stockout per Replenishment Cycle – Cycle Service Level.
- Specified Fraction (**P2**) of Demand to Be Satisfied Routinely from the Shelf – Fill Rate
- Specified Fraction of Time (**P3**) During Which Net Stock is Positive – Ready Rate
- Specified Average Time (**TBS**) Between Stockout Occasions



# Customer Service Level: P1 vs. P2

## DIFFERENCE BETWEEN P1 AND P2 EXPLAINED



# Potential of 30-50% by using P2

## P2 CALCULATES WITH EXPECTED VALUE RATHER THAN PROBABILITY

- The expected value when rolling a dice
  - The expected value is 3,5
  - $(1/6 * 1) + (1/6 * 2) + (1/6 * 3) + (1/6 * 4) + (1/6 * 5) + (1/6 * 6) = 3,5$
- Expected value of a stock-out when rolling a dice
  - Demand during lead-time is determined by the dice
  - Re-order point is 4 units
  - Expected value of stock-out is:  
 $(1/6 * (5-4)) + (1/6 * (6-4)) = 1/6 + 2/6 = 1/2$

- P2 versus P1 service level definitions

P2

- P2 implies 4 cycles without stock out, 1 cycle with 1 unit stock-out, 1 cycle with 2 units stock-out
- With purchase order qty. of 10 units, P2 service level is  $1 - (1/2 / 10) = 95\%$

P1

- P1 would indicate a service level of  $1 - (2/6) = 67\%$



# Potential of 30-50% by using P2

BESIDES DEMAND AND FORECASTING PLANNING CAN REDUCE VARIANCE IN LEAD TIME

---

- **Approach**

- The approach of P2 is similar to P1
- Calculated based upon expected value rather than probability
- P2 can be implemented in Excel, but it is more difficult

- **Frequent mistakes**

- Using P1 in case of high order quantities leads to dead stock
- Forecast error which is higher than the variance in demand

- **Best practices**

- In case of high order quantities use P2
- Demand and forecast planning is key in lowering safety stocks

# Multi-echelon optimization

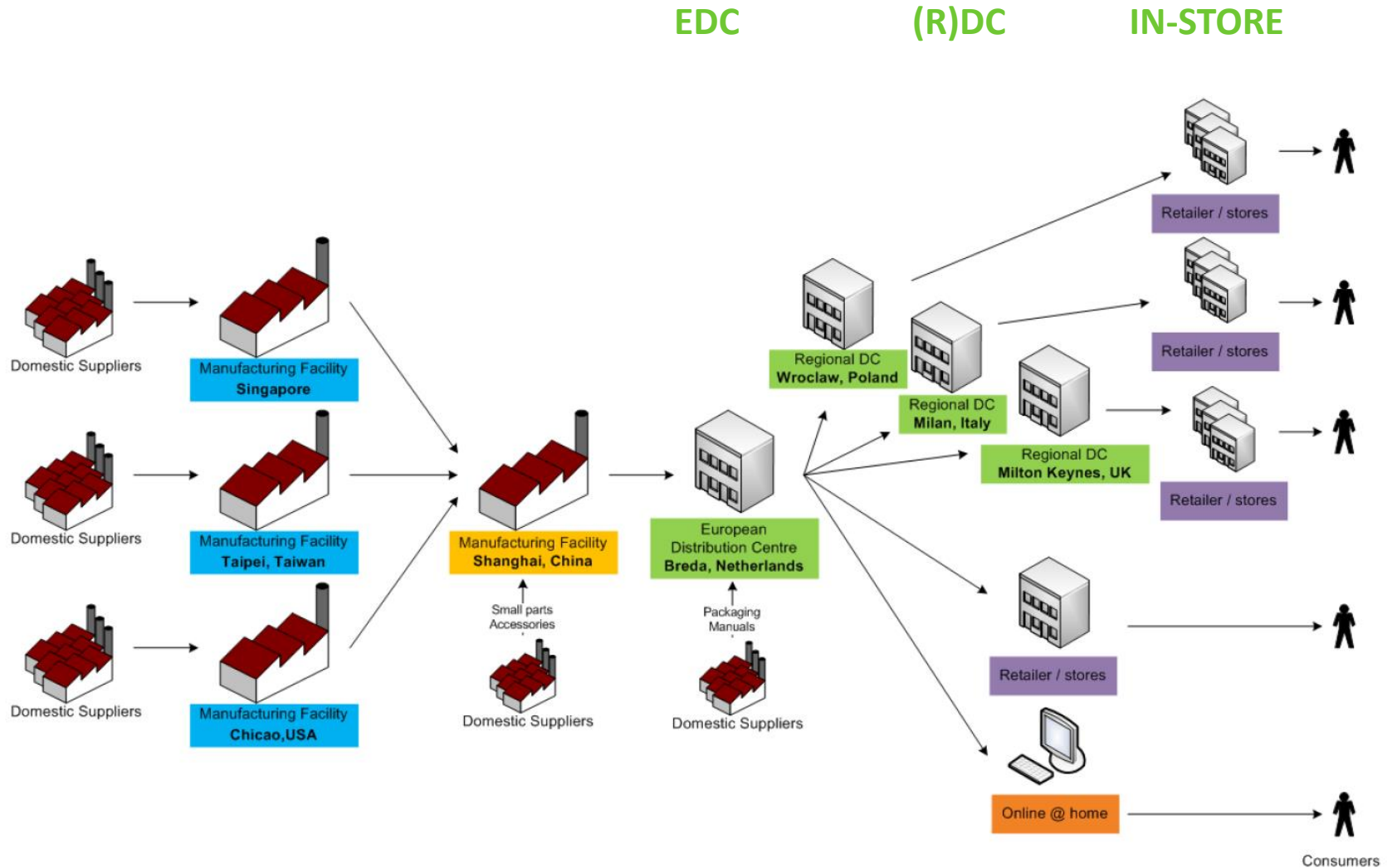
## ASSES YOUR COMPANY INVENTORY MANAGEMENT MATURITY

### Level of professionalism in inventory management

Symptoms	50-60%	60-80%	80-95%	Up to 99,9%	Up to 99,9%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gut feeling inventory management</li> <li>Many back orders</li> <li>No idea about stock quantities and service level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Days on inventory policies</li> <li>Excel based computations</li> <li>Inventory is monitored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic statistic inventory calculations (P1) based on historic demand</li> <li>ERP or Excel based computations</li> <li>Inventory is monitored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demand and forecast planning</li> <li>S&amp;OP processes</li> <li>Single echelon inventory optimization (P2)</li> <li>Inventory is monitored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demand and forecast planning</li> <li>S&amp;OP processes</li> <li>Multi-echelon inventory optimization</li> <li>Inventory specialist</li> </ul>	
Service level:	50-60%	60-80%	80-95%	Up to 99,9%	Up to 99,9%
Potential:	Base Case	Limited	20-30%	30-50%	> 50%

# Multi-Echelon Inventory optimization

## COMPLEX SUPPLY CHAINS WITH BILL OF MATERIALS



# Multi-Echelon Inventory optimization

## SIGNIFICANT EXTENDED PLANNING ISSUES

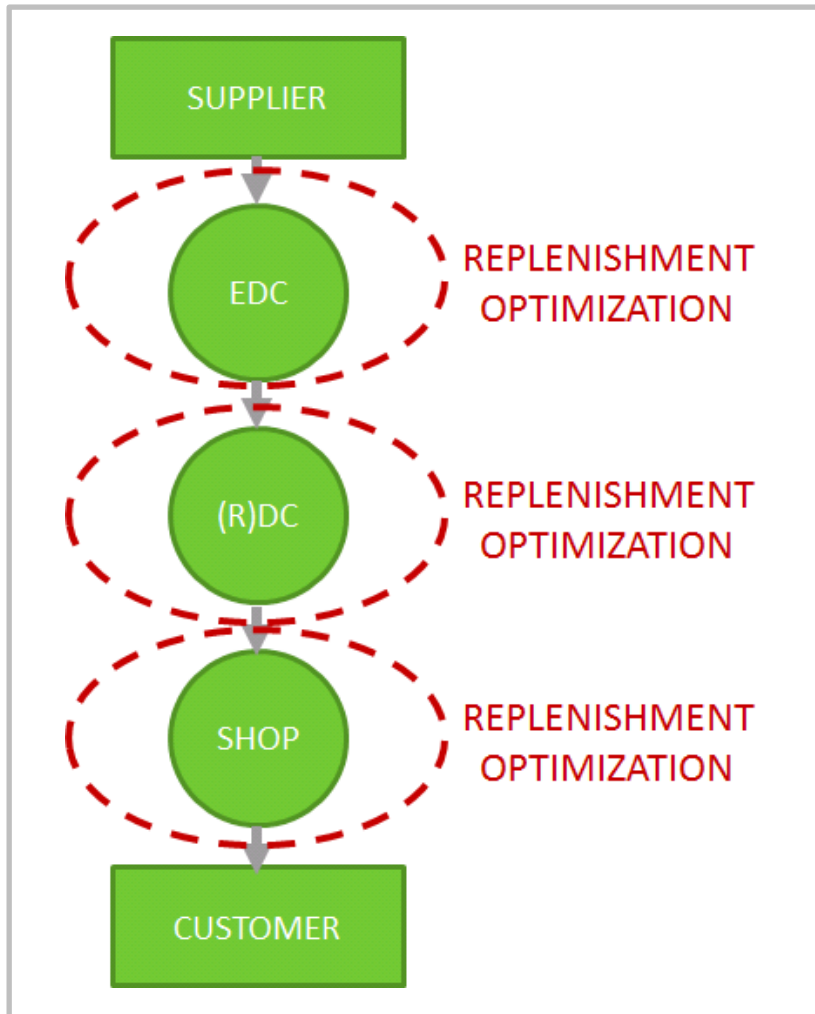
---

- What is the proper measure of demand to the EDC and (R)DC and how should this demand be forecasted?
- How does the trend towards larger orders from the EDC to the supplier affect the order supply strategy for the (R)DC & shop SKUs?
- What is the optimal service level goal between the EDC and its “customers,” which are the (R)DCs?
- How do you factor the individual DCs’ inventory positions into the RDC and shop replenishment decisions?
- How do the inventory drivers at the EDC, such as the replenishment review frequency and the service level goal, affect inventory and service levels at the (R)DC & shop level?
- When faced with a limited supply situation at the RDC, how should you allocate product down to the DCs?



# Multi-Echelon Inventory optimization

## THE TWO TRADITIONAL APPROACHES



### TRADITIONAL SOLUTIONS

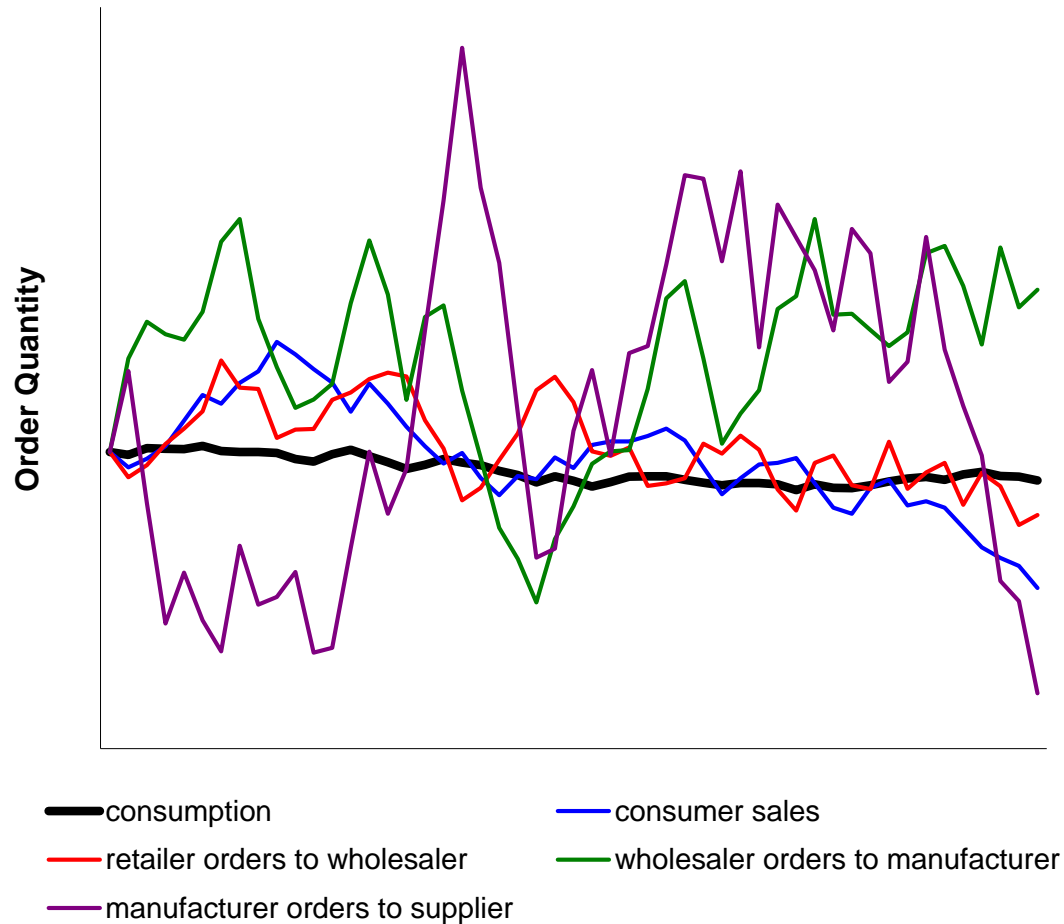
- Apply the single-echelon approach to each echelon in the network
- Use a distribution requirements planning (DRP) approach or a variation

### SHORTCOMINGS

- Lack of visibility in the demand chain
- Demand distortion from the bull-whip effect.
- Total network costs remain unevaluated.

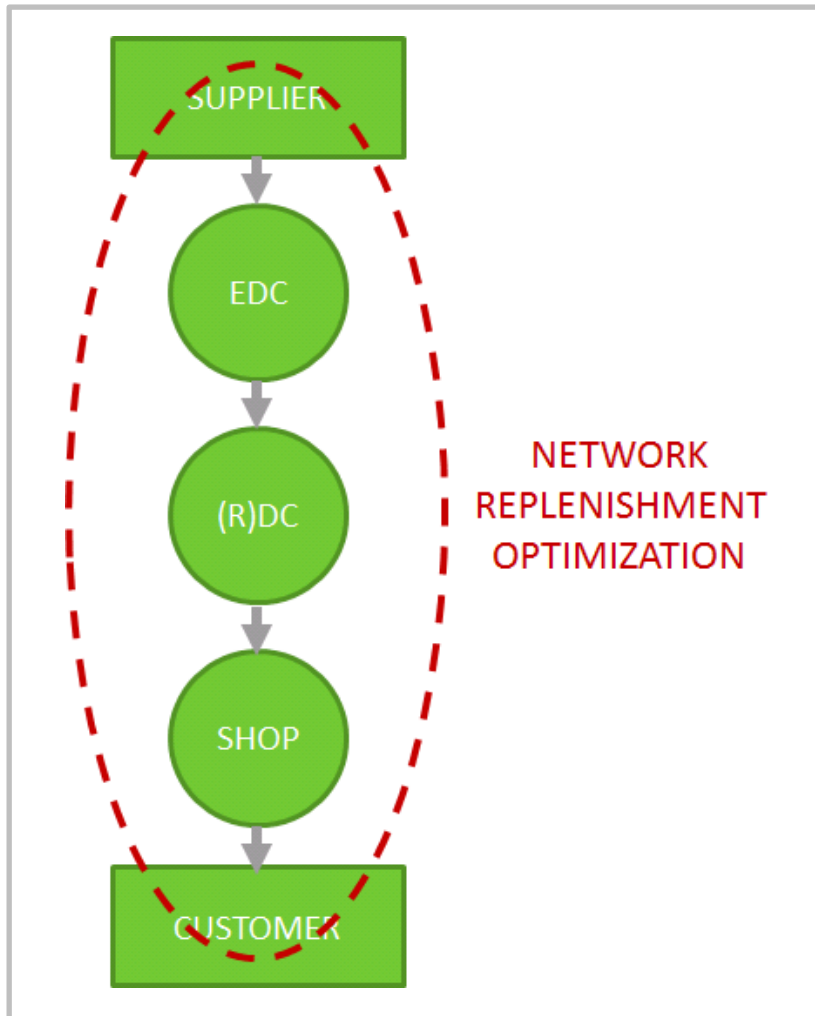
# No suitable traditional multi-echelon approach

## BULL-WHIP EFFECT



# Multi-Echelon Inventory optimization

## TRUE MULTI-ECHELON APPROACH

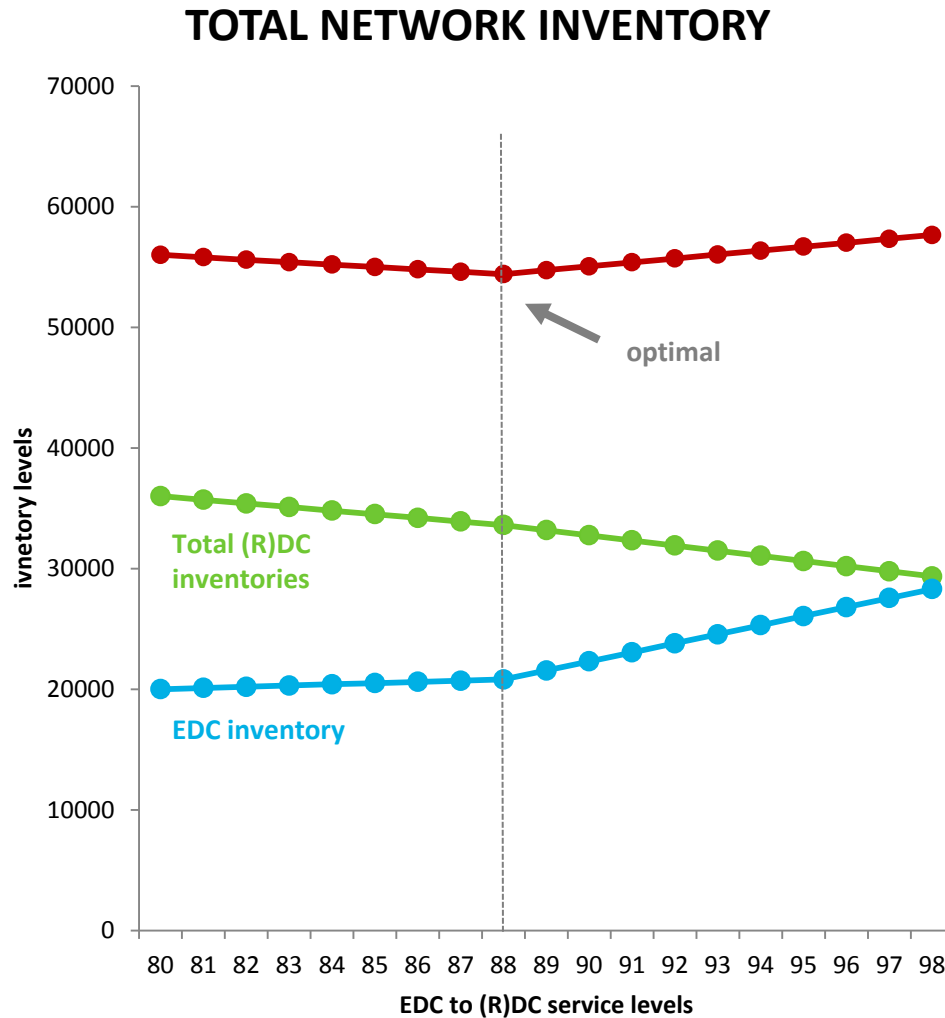


## MULTI-ECHELON APPROACH SHOULD

- Avoid multiple independent forecast updates in each echelon.
- Account for all lead times and lead time variations.
- Monitor and manage the bull-whip effect.
- Enable visibility up and down the demand chain.
- Synchronize order strategies in all echelons & correctly model the interactive effects of alternative replenishment strategies of one echelon on another.
- Offer differentiated service levels.

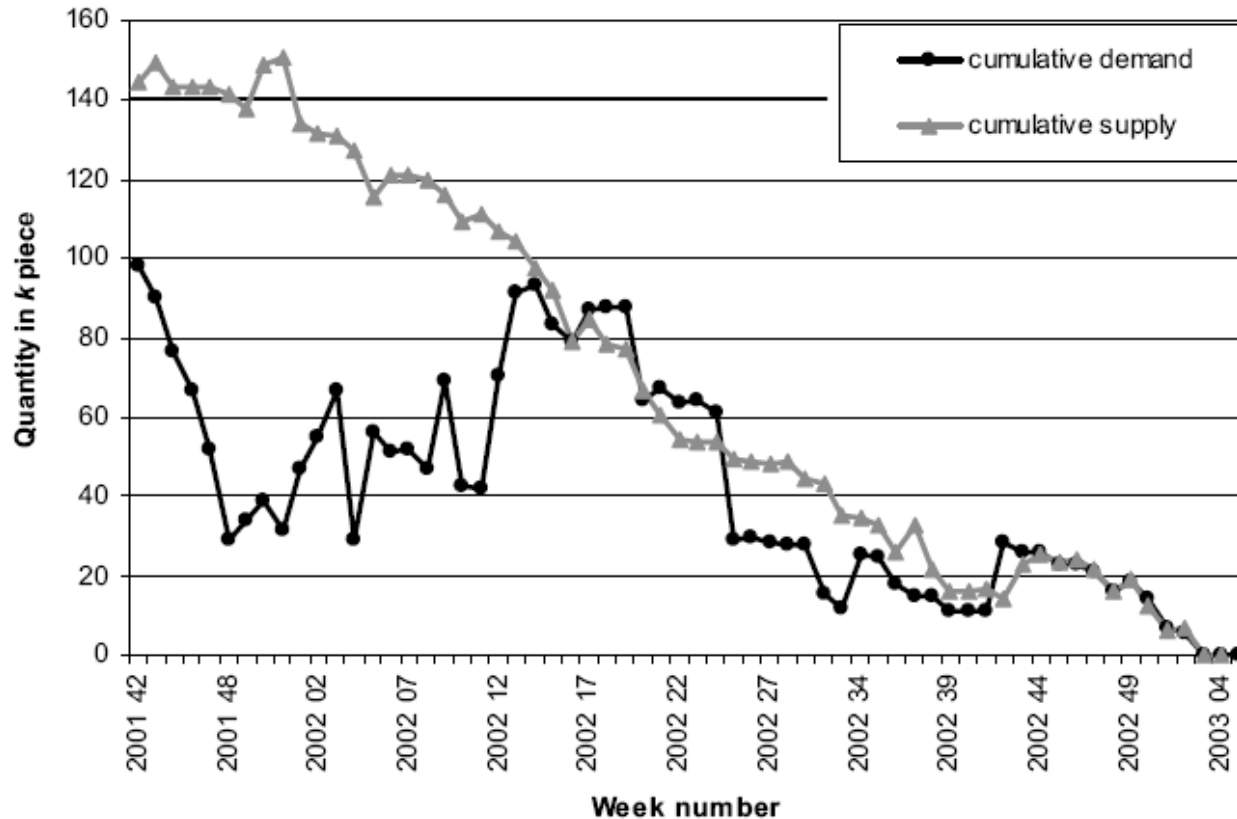
# Tackling the bull-whip effect

DETERMINE THE MINIMUM NETWORK INVENTORY OVER ALL ECHELONS



# How it worked out for Philips

## ELIMINATION OF THE BULL-WHIP EFFECT



**Figure 3:** In a successful ramp-down at the end of the life cycle of a product, as a consequence of the new planning process, the gap between demand and supply decreased (first half of the graph), and then supply started following demand closely (second part of the graph) with almost no obsolescence at the end of the life cycle.



Groenewout  
Nijverheidssingel 313  
4811 ZW Breda  
The Netherlands

E: [beerens@groenewout.com](mailto:beerens@groenewout.com)  
T: +31 (0) 76 533 0440  
M: +31 (0) 6 50 25 28 32