# 5 ways

unstable internet is **holding back your F&B manufacturing**

**vodacom** business

# Introduction

In food and beverage manufacturing, your ability to deliver on time depends on precision. Raw materials need to arrive when expected. Production lines must stay operational. Deliveries to clients require seamless coordination. But what happens when your internet connection lets you down?

An unstable internet connection may seem like a small inconvenience, but in manufacturing, its impact can be massive. It slows down communication, disrupts production, and makes it nearly impossible to respond to issues in real time. The result? Delayed schedules, wasted resources, and dissatisfied clients.

This guide reveals 5 ways unstable internet could be holding your business back. These insights will help you identify problems you may not have realised were tied to your connectivity—and what you can do to solve them.



## Issue 1: Downtime on the production line

In many cases, your production line relies heavily on automated systems and machinery that communicate over the internet. Unstable internet connections can disrupt this communication, causing machines to stop working together or shut down unexpectedly. Even brief interruptions can halt production, which has a major knock-on effect.

**Impact on your business**

⚠️ **Operational disruptions**: Machines stop working, requiring manual intervention and causing delays.

📈 **Increased costs**: Downtime leads to wasted resources and labor, affecting your bottom line.

⬇️ **Reduced output**: Production targets are missed, impacting order fulfillment and customer satisfaction.

**Real-world example**: Imagine your mixing station suddenly stops because it loses connection with the central control system. Without stable internet, your technicians can't quickly diagnose and fix the issue. Production halts for hours, delaying shipments and straining client relationships.

# Issue 2: Inefficient supply chain communication

Your supply chain relies on seamless communication to keep production running. When internet connectivity is unstable, emails are delayed, messages are missed, and supplier portals become inaccessible. This creates miscommunication and delays, leaving your team unprepared to handle sudden changes.

**Impact on your business**

**Stock shortages**: Delayed orders lead to material shortages, forcing production to stop.

**Overstocking**: To compensate, you might over-order and end up with too much inventory, tying up valuable resources.

**Strained supplier relationships**: Poor communication can damage relationships with suppliers.

**Real-world example**: A key ingredient shipment is delayed, but the notification email doesn't reach you due to internet issues. Unaware of the delay, your production line runs out of the ingredient, forcing an unplanned shutdown. This not only affects current orders but also damages your reputation with clients expecting timely deliveries.

# Issue 3: Delivery delays to clients

Timely delivery is critical in the food and beverage industry. Unstable internet disrupts logistics management, including route planning, real-time tracking, and communication with drivers. Without accurate information, you can't provide clients with updates or adjust to unforeseen issues, leading to late deliveries.

**Impact on your business**

**Client dissatisfaction**: Few things frustrate clients more than late deliveries, especially when there's no communication about delays. This can damage your reputation.

**Loss of business**: Unreliable delivery can lead clients to your competitors, looking for more reliable services.

**Increased costs**: Inefficient routing and lack of real-time adjustments increase fuel and labor expenses.

**Real-world example**: A truck carrying perishable goods encounters heavy traffic due to an accident. Without stable internet, your logistics team can't reroute the driver or inform the client about the delay. The lack of communication frustrates the client and damages their trust in your services, even if the delivery eventually arrives.

# Issue 4: Wasted time fixing avoidable issues

Unstable internet leads to frequent technical issues that consume your team's time. From troubleshooting connectivity problems to resetting systems, your staff spends valuable hours fixing issues that could be avoided with a stable connection. This distracts from core tasks and reduces overall productivity.

**Impact on your business**

**Reduced efficiency**: Time spent on technical issues detracts from productive work.

**Employee frustration**: Constant technical problems lower morale and make it harder for employees to stay engaged and productive.

**Delayed projects**: Important projects fall behind because of preventable delays.

**Real-world example**: Your quality control system loses connectivity, requiring staff to manually record data. This increases the risk of errors and diverts attention from critical tasks. Projects fall behind schedule, and employee frustration grows due to repetitive technical disruptions.

# Issue 5: Increased traffic challenges as your business grows

As your business grows, so does the demand on your systems. Higher order volumes, more communication with suppliers, and increased data usage from monitoring tools all place a heavier load on your internet connection. Unstable connectivity can't keep up with this growth, leading to slower systems, delayed responses, and missed opportunities to scale effectively.

**Impact on your business**

**Slower operations**: Increased traffic overwhelms your network, causing delays in processing orders or updating systems.

**Missed opportunities**: Inability to handle higher volumes means losing out on potential sales or new client relationships.

**Scaling bottlenecks**: Growth is stunted when your infrastructure can't keep pace with demand.

**Real-world example**: Your team receives a surge in orders as your business grows, requiring increased use of your inventory and order management systems. With unstable internet, these systems lag or crash under the load, delaying updates and creating bottlenecks. As a result, orders pile up, staff scramble to work around the issue, and your delivery timelines slip.

# How to protect your business from internet disruptions

Even with a reliable internet connection, outages can happen. But in food and beverage manufacturing, where every second counts, you can't afford downtime. That's where a failover plan can help. A failover is a backup internet solution designed to step in when your main connection goes down. Think of it as a safety net for your business.

**Here's how it works:**

**Automatic activation**: When your primary internet connection goes down, the failover solution switches to a backup connection.

**Seamless connectivity**: This backup keeps essential tools—like production monitors, supplier portals, and logistics systems—operational, so your team can stay productive.

**Temporary support**: The failover remains active until your primary connection is restored, ensuring minimal disruption during downtime.

By implementing a failover plan, you're protecting your business from the unexpected and ensuring operations stay on track.

# Stay connected with confidence

In F&B manufacturing, staying connected is the key to keeping everything running smoothly. At Vodacom Business, we understand the unique challenges you face and the importance of reliable connectivity in your daily operations.

That's why our solutions are designed to meet your unique needs, helping you avoid downtime, keep communication flowing, and ensure your business is always ready to deliver. It may seem overwhelming to tackle these challenges, but with Vodacom Business by your side, the path to smoother operations becomes clear and achievable.

With **expert support** and **reliable services**, we're here to help you stay **one step ahead**.

# Conclusion

Unstable internet connectivity creates challenges across every aspect of food and beverage manufacturing. From stalled production lines to missed sales opportunities, the disruptions ripple through your entire business.

Recognising these issues is the first step to improving operations. By investing in stable internet and proactive solutions, you can eliminate downtime, improve communication, and stay competitive in an industry where every second counts.

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