

Global Dry Bulk Shipping Market Size Study & Forecast, by Type (Capesize, Panamax, Supramax, Handysize) and Application (Iron Ore, Coal, Grains, Bauxite/Alumina, Phosphate Rock) and Regional Forecasts 2025-2035

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Abstracts

The Global Dry Bulk Shipping Market is valued at approximately USD 4.368 billion in 2024 and is projected to expand at a steady CAGR of 4.00% over the forecast period from 2025 to 2035, with historical performance captured across 2023 and 2024 and 2024 retained as the base year for estimation. Dry bulk shipping forms the backbone of global trade by enabling the large-scale transportation of unpackaged commodities such as minerals, agricultural products, and industrial raw materials. Acting as a critical enabler of industrialization and infrastructure development, this market is tightly linked to macroeconomic cycles, commodity demand, and evolving trade flows. Growth is being carried forward by industrial output recovery, expanding steel production, and the gradual normalization of global supply chains.

Market dynamics are being reshaped as shipping operators scale up fleet efficiency while navigating fuel price volatility and tightening environmental regulations. Fleet renewal programs, digital fleet management systems, and slow steaming practices are being rolled out to optimize operational economics and compliance. At the same time, fluctuations in commodity demand—particularly iron ore and coal—continue to influence freight rates and vessel utilization. While geopolitical tensions and port congestion occasionally disrupt trade lanes, long-term fundamentals remain intact as emerging economies step up imports of raw materials to support manufacturing and urban development.

The detailed segments and sub-segments included in the report are:

By Type:

Capesize

Panamax

Supramax

Handysize

By Application:

Iron Ore

Coal

Grains

Bauxite/Alumina

Phosphate Rock

By Region:**North America**

U.S.

Canada

Europe

UK

Germany

France

Spain

Italy

Rest of Europe

Asia Pacific

China

India

Japan

Australia

South Korea

Rest of Asia Pacific

Latin America

Brazil

Mexico

Middle East & Africa

UAE

Saudi Arabia

South Africa

Rest of Middle East & Africa

Capesize vessels are expected to dominate the Dry Bulk Shipping Market over the forecast period, accounting for the largest share of transported volume. Their dominance is anchored in their ability to haul massive quantities of iron ore and coal across long-haul routes, particularly between Australia, Brazil, and Asia. As steel production continues to scale up in emerging markets, Capesize vessels are being increasingly leaned on to move bulk commodities efficiently, reinforcing their position as the workhorses of the industry despite their operational constraints around port access.

From a revenue perspective, iron ore transportation currently leads the market, reflecting its outsized contribution to global dry bulk trade. Iron ore cargoes command high freight volumes and relatively stable demand, underpinning consistent revenue streams for shipping operators. Coal follows closely, although its long-term outlook is gradually being recalibrated amid energy transition policies. Meanwhile, grains and bauxite/alumina shipments are gaining momentum, supported by food security concerns and rising aluminum consumption across industrial and consumer applications.

Regionally, Asia Pacific commands the largest share of the Global Dry Bulk Shipping Market, driven by China's and India's sustained demand for raw materials to fuel manufacturing, power generation, and infrastructure projects. Europe remains a key import-export hub for grains and industrial minerals, while North America maintains steady trade flows supported by agricultural exports and mineral shipments. Latin America plays a strategic role as a major exporter of iron ore and agricultural commodities, whereas the Middle East & Africa is gradually strengthening its presence as investments in mining and port infrastructure gather pace.

Major market players included in this report are:

Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha (NYK Line)

Oldendorff Carriers GmbH & Co. KG

China COSCO Shipping Corporation Limited

Star Bulk Carriers Corp.

Golden Ocean Group Limited

Pacific Basin Shipping Limited

Diana Shipping Inc.

Eagle Bulk Shipping Inc.

Ultrabulk A/S

Genco Shipping & Trading Limited

Navios Maritime Holdings Inc.

Safe Bulkers Inc.

Grindrod Shipping Holdings Ltd.

Anglo-Eastern Ship Management

Berge Bulk

Global Dry Bulk Shipping Market Report Scope:

Historical Data – 2023, 2024

Base Year for Estimation – 2024

Forecast period – 2025-2035

Report Coverage – Revenue forecast, Company Ranking, Competitive Landscape, Growth factors, and Trends

Regional Scope – North America; Europe; Asia Pacific; Latin America; Middle East & Africa

Customization Scope – Free report customization (equivalent to up to 8 analysts' working hours) with purchase. Addition or alteration to country,

regional & segment scope*

The objective of the study is to define market sizes of different segments and countries in recent years and to forecast their values for the coming years. The report is designed to integrate qualitative insights with quantitative analysis, offering a comprehensive understanding of the Dry Bulk Shipping Market across vessel classes and cargo types. It highlights the key growth drivers, structural challenges, and emerging opportunities shaping the market's trajectory, while also delivering a detailed evaluation of competitive positioning and strategic initiatives adopted by leading shipping companies.

Key Takeaways:

Market estimates and forecasts for a 10-year period from 2025 to 2035.

Annualized revenue analysis with region- and segment-level insights.

Detailed geographical assessment supported by country-level analysis.

Competitive landscape profiling major players operating in the market.

Strategic evaluation of demand-side and supply-side dynamics shaping the industry.

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