

# Freighter Aircraft Market Opportunity, Growth Drivers, Industry Trend Analysis, and Forecast 2025 - 2034

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## Abstracts

The Global Freighter Aircraft Market was valued at USD 6.2 billion in 2024 and is estimated to grow at a CAGR of 4.5% to reach USD 9.5 billion by 2034. Several key factors are fueling this growth, including the rise of global e-commerce, increased demand for pharmaceutical and perishable goods transport, international trade growth, and the need to upgrade aging fleets. As cross-border trade accelerates, the global supply chain increasingly relies on efficient and dependable air freight networks to ensure delivery speed and reliability. At the same time, environmental regulations and cost-efficiency goals are pushing operators to replace outdated aircraft with newer, more fuel-efficient models. The growing volume of online purchases is further intensifying the need for dedicated freighter capacity to meet rapid delivery timelines. This, combined with the evolution of cargo distribution channels, continues to influence long-term growth in both advanced and developing economies.

The demand for cargo aircraft is shifting rapidly due to cost pressures, operational agility, and e-commerce requirements. Conversions of passenger aircraft into freighters are playing a vital role in meeting these evolving needs.

The passenger-to-freighter (P2F) conversion segment led the market in 2024 with a 56.6% share. This dominance is driven by cost-effective acquisition options, readily available retired passenger planes, and significantly reduced lead times. Airlines and lessors are increasingly opting for conversions to maximize the utility of existing assets while keeping pace with the rising cargo demand across regional and global routes. Expanding P2F capabilities and securing aging aircraft for timely modification will be crucial to address emerging growth markets and maintain competitiveness.

In 2024, the commercial category represented an 88.1% share. Industry leaders pointed

out that increased trade volumes, growing digital commerce, and airline-led conversions are reinforcing the commercial segment's dominance. Airlines are actively working to enhance operational efficiency using existing fleets and accelerating investment in dedicated cargo aircraft to keep up with surging demand. In response to rapid shifts in global supply chains, the commercial cargo sector is streamlining logistics to support high-speed, time-critical deliveries. Upgrading fleets and integrating intelligent cargo solutions is expected to be critical for optimizing freight movement.

U.S. Freighter Aircraft Market was valued at USD 2.24 billion in 2024. Driven by fast-growing e-commerce infrastructure, strong industrial output, and the need for streamlined logistics, the US continues to play a central role in global air cargo. The consistent rise in air freight demand supports inventory reduction, efficient manufacturing schedules, and rapid delivery expectations across the country. Companies are accelerating their investment in modern fuel-efficient aircraft while building strategic alliances with logistics and tech-forward commerce platforms to maintain market advantage and expand operational reach.

Key players shaping the Global Freighter Aircraft Market include Leonardo S.p.A., Israel Aerospace Industries, Boeing, Elbe Flugzeugwerke GmbH, Airbus, Lockheed Martin Corporation, Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China, HAECO Group, and ST Engineering. To secure their position in the competitive freighter aircraft market, leading companies are focusing on three strategic pillars. First, they are ramping up passenger-to-freighter (P2F) conversion programs to meet time-sensitive cargo demand efficiently and cost-effectively. Partnerships with OEMs and MRO providers are enabling faster turnaround times and ensuring reliable capacity expansion. Secondly, firms are investing in next-generation, fuel-efficient freighter aircraft to meet regulatory and environmental targets. Finally, strengthening ties with e-commerce and logistics companies helps to align aircraft development with evolving delivery needs.

## Contents

### CHAPTER 1 METHODOLOGY

- 1.1 Market scope and definition
- 1.2 Research design
  - 1.2.1 Research approach
  - 1.2.2 Data collection methods
- 1.3 Data mining sources
  - 1.3.1 Global
  - 1.3.2 Regional/Country
- 1.4 Base estimates and calculations
  - 1.4.1 Base year calculation
  - 1.4.2 Key trends for market estimation
- 1.5 Primary research and validation
  - 1.5.1 Primary sources
- 1.6 Forecast model
- 1.7 Research assumptions and limitations

### CHAPTER 2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Industry 360° synopsis, 2021 - 2034
- 2.2 Key market trends
  - 2.2.1 Aircraft type trends
  - 2.2.2 Freighter type trends
  - 2.2.3 Payload trends
  - 2.2.4 End use trends
  - 2.2.5 Regional trends
- 2.3 TAM Analysis, 2025-2034
- 2.4 CXO perspectives: Strategic imperatives
  - 2.4.1 Executive decision points
  - 2.4.2 Critical success factors
- 2.5 Future outlook and strategic recommendations

### CHAPTER 3 INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

- 3.1 Industry ecosystem analysis
  - 3.1.1 Supplier landscape
  - 3.1.2 Profit margin analysis

- 3.1.3 Cost structure
- 3.1.4 Value addition at each stage
- 3.1.5 Factor affecting the value chain
- 3.1.6 Disruptions
- 3.2 Industry impact forces
  - 3.2.1 Growth drivers
    - 3.2.1.1 Expansion of international trade and globalization
    - 3.2.1.2 Fleet modernization and replacement of aging freighter aircraft
    - 3.2.1.3 Growth in global e-commerce and express parcel deliveries
    - 3.2.1.4 Increasing demand for air cargo transport due to just-in-time manufacturing
    - 3.2.1.5 Rising demand for pharmaceutical and perishable goods transportation
  - 3.2.2 Industry pitfalls and challenges
    - 3.2.2.1 High operating and maintenance costs of freighter aircraft
    - 3.2.2.2 Stringent environmental regulations and noise restrictions
  - 3.2.3 Market opportunities
    - 3.2.3.1 Development of fuel-efficient and environmentally friendly freighter aircraft
    - 3.2.3.2 Expansion of converted freighter aircraft programs from passenger jets
    - 3.2.3.3 Growth in emerging markets with increasing air cargo infrastructure
- 3.3 Growth potential analysis
- 3.4 Regulatory landscape
  - 3.4.1 North America
  - 3.4.2 Europe
  - 3.4.3 Asia Pacific
  - 3.4.4 Latin America
  - 3.4.5 Middle East & Africa
- 3.5 Porter's analysis
- 3.6 PESTEL analysis
- 3.7 Technology and Innovation landscape
  - 3.7.1 Current technological trends
  - 3.7.2 Emerging technologies
- 3.8 Price trends
  - 3.8.1 By region
  - 3.8.2 By product
- 3.9 Pricing strategies
- 3.10 Emerging business models
- 3.11 Compliance requirements
- 3.12 Defense budget analysis
- 3.13 Global defense spending trends
- 3.14 Regional defense budget allocation

- 3.14.1 North America
- 3.14.2 Europe
- 3.14.3 Asia Pacific
- 3.14.4 Middle East and Africa
- 3.14.5 Latin America
- 3.15 Key defense modernization programs
- 3.16 Budget forecast (2025–2034)
  - 3.16.1 Impact on industry growth
  - 3.16.2 Defense budgets by country
- 3.17 Supply chain resilience
- 3.18 Geopolitical analysis
- 3.19 Workforce analysis
- 3.20 Digital transformation
- 3.21 Mergers, acquisitions, and strategic partnerships landscape
- 3.22 Risk assessment and management
- 3.23 Major contract awards (2021–2024)

## **CHAPTER 4 COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE, 2024**

- 4.1 Introduction
- 4.2 Company market share analysis
  - 4.2.1 By region
    - 4.2.1.1 North America
    - 4.2.1.2 Europe
    - 4.2.1.3 Asia Pacific
    - 4.2.1.4 Latin America
    - 4.2.1.5 Middle East & Africa
- 4.3 Competitive benchmarking of key players
  - 4.3.1 Financial performance comparison
    - 4.3.1.1 Revenue
    - 4.3.1.2 Profit margin
    - 4.3.1.3 R&D
  - 4.3.2 Product portfolio comparison
    - 4.3.2.1 Product range breadth
    - 4.3.2.2 Technology
    - 4.3.2.3 Innovation
  - 4.3.3 Geographic presence comparison
    - 4.3.3.1 Global footprint analysis
    - 4.3.3.2 Service network coverage

- 4.3.3.3 Market penetration by region
- 4.3.4 Competitive positioning matrix
  - 4.3.4.1 Leaders
  - 4.3.4.2 Challengers
  - 4.3.4.3 Followers
  - 4.3.4.4 Niche players
- 4.3.5 Strategic outlook matrix
- 4.4 Key developments, 2021-2024
  - 4.4.1 Mergers and acquisitions
  - 4.4.2 Partnerships and collaborations
  - 4.4.3 Technological advancements
  - 4.4.4 Expansion and investment strategies
  - 4.4.5 Digital transformation initiatives
- 4.5 Emerging/ startup competitors landscape

## **CHAPTER 5 MARKET ESTIMATES AND FORECAST, BY AIRCRAFT TYPE, 2021 - 2034 (USD MILLION & UNITS)**

- 5.1 Key trends
- 5.2 Narrow-body freighters
- 5.3 Wide-body freighters
- 5.4 Regional aircraft

## **CHAPTER 6 MARKET ESTIMATES AND FORECAST, BY FREIGHTER TYPE, 2021 - 2034 (USD MILLION & UNITS)**

- 6.1 Key trends
- 6.2 OEM configured
- 6.3 Passenger-to-Freighter conversions (P2F)

## **CHAPTER 7 MARKET ESTIMATES AND FORECAST, BY PAYLOAD, 2021 - 2034 (USD MILLION & UNITS)**

- 7.1 Key trends
- 7.2 Light freighters (60 tons)

## **CHAPTER 8 MARKET ESTIMATES AND FORECAST, BY END USE, 2021 - 2034 (USD MILLION & UNITS)**

- 8.1 Key trends
- 8.2 Commercial
  - 8.2.1 Integrated express carriers
  - 8.2.2 Scheduled cargo airlines
  - 8.2.3 Charter & ACMI operators
  - 8.2.4 Combination carriers
- 8.3 Military

## **CHAPTER 9 MARKET ESTIMATES & FORECAST, BY REGION, 2021 - 2034 (USD MILLION & UNITS)**

- 9.1 Key trends
- 9.2 North America
  - 9.2.1 U.S.
  - 9.2.2 Canada
- 9.3 Europe
  - 9.3.1 Germany
  - 9.3.2 UK
  - 9.3.3 France
  - 9.3.4 Italy
  - 9.3.5 Spain
  - 9.3.6 Netherlands
- 9.4 Asia Pacific
  - 9.4.1 China
  - 9.4.2 India
  - 9.4.3 Japan
  - 9.4.4 Australia
  - 9.4.5 South Korea
- 9.5 Latin America
  - 9.5.1 Brazil
  - 9.5.2 Mexico
  - 9.5.3 Argentina
- 9.6 MEA
  - 9.6.1 South Africa
  - 9.6.2 Saudi Arabia
  - 9.6.3 UAE

## **CHAPTER 10 COMPANY PROFILES**

## 10.1 Global Key Players

10.1.1 Airbus

10.1.2 Boeing

10.1.3 Lockheed Martin Corporation

10.1.4 Embraer

10.1.5 ATR Aircraft

## 10.2 Regional Key Players

10.2.1 North America

10.2.1.1 Aeronautical Engineers Inc.

10.2.1.2 De Havilland Canada

10.2.1.3 GE Capital Aviation Services

10.2.1.4 Pemco

10.2.1.5 Precision Aircraft Solutions

10.2.1.6 Textron Aviation Inc.

10.2.2 Europe

10.2.2.1 Elbe Flugzeugwerke GmbH

10.2.2.2 Leonardo S.p.A.

10.2.3 Asia Pacific

10.2.3.1 Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China

10.2.3.2 HAECO Group

10.2.3.3 Israel Aerospace Industries

10.2.3.4 ST Engineering

## 10.3 Niche Players / Disruptors

10.3.1 Ilyushin Aviation Complex

10.3.2 Tupolev

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