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# 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 At the same time, environmental regulations and cost-efficiency goals are pushing operators to replace outdated aircraft with newer, more fuel-efficient models.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

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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.

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# Contents

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## CHAPTER 4 COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE, 2024

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



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