

Transportation & Handling Market Forecasts to 2034 – Global Analysis By Service Type (Freight Forwarding, Warehousing & Distribution, Customs Brokerage and Specialized Value-Added Services), Transport Mode, Application and By Geography

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Abstracts

According to Statistics MRC, the Global Transportation & Handling Market is accounted for \$1070.0 billion in 2026 and is expected to reach \$1838.5 billion by 2034 growing at a CAGR of 7.0% during the forecast period. Transportation and handling are fundamental to an effective supply chain, guaranteeing that goods reach consumers safely and on time. Selecting appropriate transport modes—road, rail, air, or sea—depends on cost, speed, and product type. Proper handling techniques reduce damage, maintain quality, and prevent delays. Logistics tools and route optimization enhance operational efficiency, while adherence to safety standards, packaging protocols, and skilled staff lowers risk. Close collaboration among carriers, warehouses, and distribution points ensures timely, cost-effective delivery. Overall, well-managed transportation and handling are crucial for operational efficiency, customer satisfaction, and minimizing losses across the supply chain.

According to IATA, global air cargo demand measured in cargo tonne-kilometers (CTKs) grew 18% year-on-year in January 2024, the strongest annual growth since mid-2021. Available cargo capacity (ACTKs) rose 19% compared to January 2023, reflecting expanded handling and logistics operations.

Market Dynamics:

Driver:

Rising demand for fast delivery

Consumer preference for quick deliveries, including same-day and next-day services, is propelling the transportation and handling market. Rapid movement of goods is crucial for customer satisfaction and competitive advantage. Organizations are implementing fleet management, real-time monitoring, and automated sorting to expedite delivery. Faster delivery also lowers inventory costs and boosts supply chain efficiency. To meet strict delivery timelines, businesses are optimizing networks, improving handling procedures, and exploring innovative last-mile strategies. This growing emphasis on speed and reliability continues to drive investments in transportation and handling infrastructure and technology.

Restraint:

High operational costs

The transportation and handling sector is constrained by high operational expenses, including fuel, labor, maintenance, and infrastructure investments. Increasing fuel prices and workforce wages elevate logistics costs, while warehouses and automated systems require significant capital. Smaller companies struggle to compete due to these financial pressures. Inefficiencies, equipment breakdowns, and disruptions further raise costs and reduce profitability. The high expense of adopting modern technologies limits market expansion, especially for smaller players, slowing overall growth. These financial challenges remain a key restraint on the sector's ability to scale and deliver cost-effective transportation and handling solutions.

Opportunity:

Growth of e-commerce and omnichannel retail

Rising e-commerce and omnichannel retail present substantial opportunities for transportation and handling services. Customers demand fast, dependable, and trackable deliveries, prompting companies to implement innovative last-mile solutions, micro-fulfillment centers, and intelligent logistics networks. Digital tools for order tracking and inventory management further optimize operations. Providers offering flexible and speedy fulfillment can strengthen their market position. With global online shopping continuously growing, transportation and handling companies can capitalize on long-term expansion prospects, improve service offerings, and leverage advanced logistics technologies to meet evolving consumer expectations and gain a competitive edge.

Threat:

Natural disasters and climate events

Natural disasters and extreme climate events threaten transportation and handling operations. Floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, and storms disrupt supply chains, damage facilities, and cause shipment delays. These events elevate costs through rerouting, emergency response, and insurance claims. Providers in high-risk regions face greater chances of operational loss and service interruptions. The increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related events due to global warming add long-term uncertainty. Investing in resilient infrastructure, disaster planning, and risk management is essential. Without proper measures, companies may incur financial losses, reputational damage, and reduced customer confidence, making natural hazards a significant market threat.

Covid-19 Impact:

The COVID-19 outbreak caused major disruptions in the transportation and handling sector globally. Lockdowns, restricted travel, and workforce shortages led to shipment delays, supply chain challenges, and higher operational expenses. While demand for essential products and online shopping increased, logistics networks had to adapt quickly with last-mile delivery solutions. Companies invested in automated warehouses, contactless handling, and digital monitoring to ensure operational continuity. Non-essential goods experienced delays, and volatile fuel prices intensified financial pressures. The pandemic exposed weaknesses in global logistics but also accelerated adoption of flexible, technology-enabled, and resilient transportation and handling solutions to address evolving market needs.

The freight forwarding segment is expected to be the largest during the forecast period

The freight forwarding segment is expected to account for the largest market share during the forecast period because it manages the entire flow of goods across supply chains. It includes planning shipments, selecting carriers, preparing documentation, and optimizing routes for timely delivery. Growing global trade, e-commerce expansion, and complex international logistics drive its demand. Freight forwarders help businesses navigate customs procedures and reduce risks, providing critical support. With scalable services capable of managing various cargo types, freight forwarding offers comprehensive solutions that enhance efficiency and reliability, establishing it as the leading segment in the transportation and handling industry.

The healthcare & pharmaceuticals segment is expected to have the highest CAGR during the forecast period

Over the forecast period, the healthcare & pharmaceuticals segment is predicted to witness the highest growth rate, driven by the need for safe and timely delivery of medical goods. Strict regulatory requirements, cold chain management, and rising demand for vaccines, medicines, and equipment necessitate specialized logistics. Providers are adopting temperature-controlled storage, digital tracking, and secure handling to maintain product quality. Expansion of global healthcare services, online medical supply sales, and urgent medical deliveries further boost growth. The segment's reliance on efficient, reliable, and compliant logistics solutions positions healthcare and pharmaceuticals as the leading area for rapid growth in transportation and handling services.

Region with largest share:

During the forecast period, the North America region is expected to hold the largest market share, owing to its advanced logistics infrastructure and technology adoption. Strong industrial activity, rapid e-commerce growth, and efficient supply chains contribute to its leading position. The region leverages extensive road, rail, and air networks, automated warehouses, and digital tracking systems for effective delivery. Supportive regulations, a skilled workforce, and significant investment in logistics innovation enhance its competitiveness. North America's mature and technologically advanced transportation ecosystem enables high operational efficiency, making it the region with the largest market share in global transportation and handling services.

Region with highest CAGR:

Over the forecast period, the Asia Pacific region is anticipated to exhibit the highest CAGR, driven by industrial expansion, booming e-commerce, and increasing trade volumes. Rising urban populations, growing consumer demand, and investments in modern logistics infrastructure support this growth. Companies are implementing automated warehouses, efficient last-mile delivery, and technology-based tracking systems to enhance operations. With rising demand for efficient and timely delivery, the Asia-Pacific region is rapidly adopting advanced transportation and handling solutions, positioning it as the fastest-growing market worldwide.

Key players in the market

Some of the key players in Transportation & Handling Market include DHL Supply Chain, FedEx Corp., United Parcel Service, Inc. (UPS), Kuehne+Nagel International AG, A.P. Moller – Maersk, Deutsche Post AG, Schenker AG (DB Logistics), DSV Solutions, Nippon Express Holdings, Inc., C.H. Robinson Worldwide Inc., Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone Ltd, Allcargo Logistics Limited, Mahindra Logistics Limited, Safexpress Pvt. Ltd., TVS Supply Chain Solutions, BlackBuck Technologies Pvt. Ltd., PDP Shipping & Project Logistics and VRL Logistics Ltd.

Key Developments:

In May 2025, FedEx announced an agreement with Neste, the world's leading producer of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and renewable diesel, securing more than three million gallons of blended sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) for delivery at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) to the world's largest express cargo airline. Through this agreement, FedEx has purchased blended fuel from Neste, to include a minimum of 30% neat Neste MY Sustainable Aviation Fuel.

In May 2025, DSV and UNICEF have announced the expansion of their strategic partnership to accelerate the delivery of life-saving supplies during emergencies. This deepened collaboration strengthens the humanitarian action pillar of their three-part partnership, complementing their shared commitment to reaching every child, responding to emergencies and building stronger supply chains for the future.

Service Types Covered:

Freight Forwarding

Warehousing & Distribution

Customs Brokerage

Specialized Value-Added Services

Transport Modes Covered:

Road

Rail

Air

Sea

Applications Covered:

Consumer Goods & Retail

Automotive

Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals

Industrial Manufacturing

Food & Beverages

Energy & Utilities

Regions Covered:

North America

United States

Canada

Mexico

Europe

United Kingdom

Germany

France

Italy

Spain

Netherlands

Belgium

Sweden

Switzerland

Poland

Rest of Europe

Asia Pacific

China

Japan

India

South Korea

Australia

Indonesia

Thailand

Malaysia

Singapore

Vietnam

Rest of Asia Pacific

South America

Brazil

Argentina

Colombia

Chile

Peru

Rest of South America

Rest of the World (RoW)

Middle East

Saudi Arabia

United Arab Emirates

Qatar

Israel

Rest of Middle East

Africa

South Africa

Egypt

Morocco

Rest of Africa

What our report offers:

Market share assessments for the regional and country-level segments

Strategic recommendations for the new entrants

Covers Market data for the years 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2030, 2032 and 2034

Market Trends (Drivers, Constraints, Opportunities, Threats, Challenges, Investment Opportunities, and recommendations)

Strategic recommendations in key business segments based on the market estimations

Competitive landscaping mapping the key common trends

Company profiling with detailed strategies, financials, and recent developments

Supply chain trends mapping the latest technological advancements

Free Customization Offerings:

All the customers of this report will be entitled to receive one of the following free customization options:

Company Profiling

Comprehensive profiling of additional market players (up to 3)

SWOT Analysis of key players (up to 3)

Regional Segmentation

Market estimations, Forecasts and CAGR of any prominent country as per the client's interest (Note: Depends on feasibility check)

Competitive Benchmarking

Benchmarking of key players based on product portfolio, geographical presence, and strategic alliances

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