

Europe & CIS Rail Freight Transportation Market By Freight Category (Unit Trains, Carload Freight, Intermodal Freight), By Transport Area (International Transport, National Transport), By Country, Competition, Opportunities & Forecast, 2020-2030F

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Abstracts

Market Overview:

Europe & CIS Rail Freight Transportation Market was valued at USD 8.55 Billion in 2024 and is expected to reach USD 9.79 Billion by 2030 with a CAGR of 2.28% during the forecast period. The Europe & CIS rail freight transportation market is experiencing a phase of modernization fueled by shifts in supply chain strategies and growing emphasis on sustainable logistics. Growth drivers include the rising demand for bulk commodity transport, increasing fuel cost efficiency of rail over road, and expansion of integrated logistics hubs supporting seamless cargo transfers across modes. The market is witnessing a surge in demand for freight corridors capable of handling higher volumes and faster turnaround, driven by the evolving needs of industrial and manufacturing sectors.

Market Drivers

Modernization of Railway Infrastructure

The modernization of railway infrastructure is a key driver for the growth of rail freight transportation, enhancing efficiency, capacity, and reliability across logistics networks. Upgraded tracks, advanced signaling systems, and electrification projects are transforming traditional rail corridors into high-performance freight routes. Investments in modern infrastructure allow for higher axle loads, faster transit times, and reduced

maintenance disruptions, making rail a more attractive option for shippers. Enhanced terminals with digital coordination tools and automated handling equipment are improving intermodal connectivity and reducing cargo dwell times. Modernization efforts also contribute to improved safety, lower energy consumption, and better integration with smart mobility systems. These upgrades are often supported by national and regional funding programs, recognizing rail's strategic importance in reducing congestion and supporting economic growth. For instance, Poland is investing USD 2.8 billion from the EU Recovery Fund to modernize key railway corridors, focusing on track upgrades, electrification, and signaling to boost freight capacity, speed, and reliability.

Key Market Challenges

Infrastructure Modernization and Capacity Constraints

A significant challenge in rail freight transportation is the limited capacity and aging infrastructure that hampers service expansion and operational efficiency. Many rail networks continue to rely on outdated tracks, signaling systems, and rolling stock, which leads to frequent delays, speed limitations, and higher maintenance costs. As cargo volumes grow and demand shifts toward time-sensitive deliveries, existing infrastructure often struggles to accommodate heavier and faster trains. This bottleneck limits the frequency and flexibility of freight movement, reducing the attractiveness of rail compared to other modes. Investment in double-tracking, electrification, bridge strengthening, and terminal automation is necessary to enhance capacity, but such upgrades are capital-intensive and time-consuming. Network congestion in key freight corridors further disrupts schedules, creating inefficiencies for shippers and logistics providers. Balancing freight and passenger traffic on shared lines adds complexity, especially during peak hours or in densely trafficked zones.

Key Market Trends

Integration of Rail into Intermodal Logistics

Rail freight is increasingly becoming a central component of intermodal transportation strategies, offering a cost-effective and sustainable middle segment for long-distance cargo movement. Shippers and logistics providers are adopting rail as part of a multimodal approach where goods are moved seamlessly between ships, trucks, and trains. This integration enhances delivery speed and efficiency while reducing reliance on long-haul trucking, which often faces challenges like driver shortages, fuel costs, and congestion. Intermodal terminals equipped with modern cargo handling equipment and

digital coordination tools are streamlining the transfer process between modes. The flexibility of combining rail with road or maritime transport enables better routing, higher capacity utilization, and more responsive supply chain management. This trend is also supported by smart tracking technologies that provide end-to-end cargo visibility, ensuring better planning and risk mitigation. The intermodal model is especially attractive for containerized goods, perishable items, and time-sensitive industrial cargo.

Key Market Players

DB Cargo

SNCF Group

Rail Cargo Group

PKP Cargo

TX Logistik AG

SBB Cargo International

Green Cargo

?D Cargo

Freightliner Group Ltd

ZSSK CARGO

Report Scope:

In this report, the Europe & CIS Rail Freight Transportation Market has been segmented into the following categories, in addition to the industry trends which have also been detailed below:

Europe & CIS Rail Freight Transportation Market, By Freight Category:

Unit Trains

Carload Freight

Intermodal Freight

Europe & CIS Rail Freight Transportation Market, By Transport Area:

International Transport

National Transport

Europe & CIS Rail Freight Transportation Market, By Country:

Germany

Russia

France

Spain

Italy

United Kingdom

Poland

Rest of Europe & CIS

Competitive Landscape

Company Profiles: Detailed analysis of the major companies presents in the Europe & CIS Rail Freight Transportation Market.

Available Customizations:

Europe & CIS Rail Freight Transportation Market report with the given market data, TechSci Research offers customizations according to the company's specific needs.

Europe & CIS Rail Freight Transportation Market By Freight Category (Unit Trains, Carload Freight, Intermodal...

The following customization options are available for the report:

Company Information

Detailed analysis and profiling of additional market players (up to five).

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Product Overview
- 1.2. Key Highlights of the Report
- 1.3. Market Coverage
- 1.4. Market Segments Covered
- 1.5. Research Tenure Considered

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- 2.1. Methodology Landscape
- 2.2. Objective of the Study
- 2.3. Baseline Methodology
- 2.4. Formulation of the Scope
- 2.5. Assumptions and Limitations
- 2.6. Sources of Research
- 2.7. Approach for the Market Study
- 2.8. Methodology Followed for Calculation of Market Size & Market Shares
- 2.9. Forecasting Methodology

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 3.1. Overview of the Market
- 3.2. Overview of Key Market Segmentations
- 3.3. Overview of Key Market Players
- 3.4. Overview of Key Countries

4. EUROPE & CIS RAIL FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION MARKET OUTLOOK

- 4.1. Market Size & Forecast
 - 4.1.1. By Value
- 4.2. Market Share & Forecast
 - 4.2.1. By Freight Category Market Share Analysis (Unit Trains, Carload Freight, Intermodal Freight)
 - 4.2.2. By Transport Area Market Share Analysis (International Transport, National Transport)
 - 4.2.3. By Country

4.2.4. By Company (2024)

4.3. Market Map

5. GERMANY RAIL FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION MARKET OUTLOOK

5.1. Market Size & Forecast

5.1.1. By Value

5.2. Market Share & Forecast

5.2.1. By Freight Category Market Share Analysis

5.2.2. By Transport Area Market Share Analysis

6. RUSSIA RAIL FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION MARKET OUTLOOK

6.1. Market Size & Forecast

6.1.1. By Value

6.2. Market Share & Forecast

6.2.1. By Freight Category Market Share Analysis

6.2.2. By Transport Area Market Share Analysis

7. FRANCE RAIL FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION MARKET OUTLOOK

7.1. Market Size & Forecast

7.1.1. By Value

7.2. Market Share & Forecast

7.2.1. By Freight Category Market Share Analysis

7.2.2. By Transport Area Market Share Analysis

8. SPAIN RAIL FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION MARKET OUTLOOK

8.1. Market Size & Forecast

8.1.1. By Value

8.2. Market Share & Forecast

8.2.1. By Freight Category Market Share Analysis

8.2.2. By Transport Area Market Share Analysis

9. ITALY RAIL FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION MARKET OUTLOOK

9.1. Market Size & Forecast

9.1.1. By Value

9.2. Market Share & Forecast

9.2.1. By Freight Category Market Share Analysis

9.2.2. By Transport Area Market Share Analysis

10. UNITED KINGDOM RAIL FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION MARKET OUTLOOK

10.1. Market Size & Forecast

10.1.1. By Value

10.2. Market Share & Forecast

10.2.1. By Freight Category Market Share Analysis

10.2.2. By Transport Area Market Share Analysis

11. POLAND RAIL FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION MARKET OUTLOOK

11.1. Market Size & Forecast

11.1.1. By Value

11.2. Market Share & Forecast

11.2.1. By Freight Category Market Share Analysis

11.2.2. By Transport Area Market Share Analysis

12. MARKET DYNAMICS

12.1. Drivers

12.2. Challenges

13. KEY MARKET DISRUPTIONS

13.1. Conflicts

13.2. Pandemic

13.3. Trade Barriers

14. MARKET TRENDS & DEVELOPMENTS

15. PORTER'S FIVE FORCES ANALYSIS

16. POLICY & REGULATORY LANDSCAPE

17. COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

17.1. Company Profiles

17.1.1. DB Cargo

17.1.1.1. Business Overview

17.1.1.2. Company Snapshot

17.1.1.3. Products & Services

17.1.1.4. Financials (As Per Availability)

17.1.1.5. Key Market Focus & Geographical Presence

17.1.1.6. Recent Developments

17.1.1.7. Key Management Personnel

17.1.2. SNCF Group

17.1.3. Rail Cargo Group

17.1.4. PKP Cargo

17.1.5. TX Logistik AG

17.1.6. SBB Cargo International

17.1.7. Green Cargo

17.1.8. ?D Cargo

17.1.9. Freightliner Group Ltd

17.1.10. ZSSK CARGO

18. STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

19. ABOUT US & DISCLAIMER

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