

**Air Freight Market Assessment, By Service [Freight Forwarding, Airlines, Mail, Others], By Destination [Domestic, International], By Carrier Type [Belly Cargo, Freighter], By End-use [Private, Commercial, Institutional], By Region, Opportunities and Forecast, 2018-2032F**

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**Report description:**

Global air freight market is projected to witness a CAGR of 7.60% during the forecast period 2025-2032, growing from USD 298.92 billion in 2024 to USD 537.09 billion in 2032 owing to several key factors. With the rise in e-commerce, customers expect fast and reliable shipping solutions, and businesses use air freight to meet their expectations for quick delivery. The expansion of global trade in recent years, with the general improvement in the economy and rise in industrial production, has increased the requirement for efficient logistics, mainly for high-value and time-sensitive products such as electronics, pharmaceuticals, and perishable items. Technological improvements in aircraft design and logistics systems have increased efficiency, reduced costs, and improved tractability, thus making air freight more appealing to shippers. Global events such as the COVID-19 pandemic have brought the need for more flexible and resilient transportation networks. Therefore, companies are increasing their reliance on air freight for critical shipments. The trend of globalization and the need for quicker supply chains in emerging markets also contribute to the positive trajectory of the industry. Sustainability initiatives and investments in environmentally friendly aircraft are setting up air freight as a competitive and future-ready mode of transportation. Together, these factors drive the steady expansion of the air freight market and make it an important component of global trade and logistics.

In May 2024, A.P. MOLLER - MAERSK A/S, a Denmark-based global transport and logistics company, launched a full-service air freight gateway in Miami, enhancing connectivity between the U.S., Asia, and Latin America. This 90,000 square-foot facility, staffed by Maersk professionals, will focus on transshipping European and Asian cargo to Latin America, supporting North American and Asian markets through cost-effective U.S. routes. Key certifications like U.S. Customs bonded Container Freight Station (CFS) and Certified Cargo Screening Facility (CCSF) ensure efficient operations. The strategic Miami gateway bolsters Maersk's global network, providing reliable, flexible logistics solutions and driving growth in the air freight market by meeting the increasing

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demand for fast, high-value cargo transport across regions.

#### E-commerce Expansion is Fueling Market Growth

The expansion of e-commerce is driving demand for fast, reliable delivery solutions, significantly fueling the growth of the air freight market. As online shopping becomes more common, consumers expect faster delivery times (often within one to two days), which air freight is uniquely positioned to deliver. This is especially important for international supply and high-cost products such as electronic devices and luxury goods requiring speed and safety. As the growth of global and cross-growing e-commerce platforms grows, an effective logistics network to connect customers around the world and customers around the world is required. Retailers and e-commerce giants such as Amazon and Alibaba rely heavily on-air transport to stay competitive, meet customer expectations, and drive industry growth. This trend highlights the vital role of air transport in supporting the rapid development of e-commerce.

In January 2023, Amazon.com, Inc., a United States-based multinational technology and e-commerce company, launched Amazon Air, marking it the first e-commerce company in India to establish a dedicated air cargo network utilizing two Boeing 737-800 aircraft operated by Quikjet Cargo Airlines. This expansion, with operations across Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Delhi, and Mumbai, aims to improve delivery speed and reliability. The move supports 1.1 million sellers in India and enhances logistical infrastructure, creating jobs and boosting ancillary businesses. By providing faster and more efficient delivery options, Amazon Air contributes to the growth of the air freight market, meeting the rising demand for swift, high-value cargo transport in the region.

#### Global Trade and High-value Goods Drive Air Freight Market Growth

Global trade and the transportation of high-value goods are the primary drivers of growth in the air freight market. As international trade grows, companies need faster, more reliable logistics solutions to meet the demands of the global supply chain. Air freight is particularly suited to transporting time-sensitive and expensive goods such as electronics, pharmaceuticals, and luxury items where delays can cause significant losses. The speed and safety offered by air freight ensures that these goods reach their destination quickly and in optimal condition. The growing demand for rotten products, such as fresh products and seafood, in the international market emphasizes the need for effective transportation and increases the use of air cargo. World trade is growing, but air cargo is still indispensable in connecting the market and promoting the rapid movement of valuable products.

In June 2024, ECU Worldwide, a Belgium-based global logistics, and freight forwarding company partnered with ShipBob to give ocean and air freight services to ShipBob's centrals and fulfillment centers in the US, Europe, Canada, and Australia. This collaboration integrates ECU Worldwide's expansive network, enhancing ShipBob's e-commerce force operation across over 50 requests. The cooperation leverages ECU360, a tech-driven booking platform, to streamline global force chains and ameliorate delivery capabilities, supporting small to medium-sized businesses and mid-market e-commerce merchandisers. By offering comprehensive freight results and optimizing logistics, this cooperation will contribute to the growth of the air freight request through better effectiveness and expanded service reach.

#### Domestic Segment Dominates Air Freight Market

The domestic segment dominates the air freight market due to its ability to provide faster and more reliable transportation of goods within national borders. Businesses rely on domestic air freight to meet tight delivery deadlines, especially for perishable items, e-commerce shipments, and high-value goods. With increasing demand for just-in-time delivery and the growth of online shopping, domestic air freight has become a critical component of supply chains. Additionally, well-established infrastructure and extensive networks of regional airports contribute to its efficiency. This dominance is further supported by technological advancements that streamline operations, ensuring cost-effectiveness and timely delivery for local businesses.

In July 2024, Kuehne + Nagel International AG, a Switzerland-based global logistics and supply chain management company, and Mercedes-Benz successfully implemented sustainable aviation fuel in air cargo transport, reducing CO2 emissions by around 11,000 tons over the past year. The strategic partnership, which uses Kuehne+Nagel's Boeing 747-8F freighter, supports the decarbonization of Mercedes-Benz's supply chain by using SAF for transport from Stuttgart to Birmingham. This initiative demonstrates our commitment to sustainable development, sets a precedent for the aviation industry, encourages further adoption of environmentally friendly practices, and contributes to market growth through improved environmental responsibility and logistical efficiency.[]

#### Asia-Pacific Dominates Air Freight Market Share

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The Asia-Pacific is presently dominating the air freight market because it is the global hub for manufacturing and trade. Nations like China, Japan, and South Korea are top exporters of high-value items, including electronics, machinery, and automobile parts. These goods are very much air-freight-dependent because they are delivered quickly to international markets. Also, the region's growing e-commerce industry, led by Alibaba and JD.com, fuels the need for fast and reliable air transport. Emerging economies in Southeast Asia also contribute to growth as exports of perishables and textiles increase. Hubs such as Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Singapore, which are key airports, support the region's dominance. The Asia-Pacific, owing to its strategic location, robust infrastructure, and constant investments in logistics, stands out as a vital player in the global air freight market.

In November 2024, Air Transport Services Group, Inc., a United States-based global leader in medium widebody freighter aircraft leasing, air transport operations, and support services, agreed to acquire Stonepeak for USD 3.1 billion in an all-cash transaction that provides Air Transport Services Group shareholders with USD 22.50 per share. The acquisition unanimously approved by Air Transport Services Group's Board of Directors will allow Air Transport Services Group to become a private company, strengthening its position as a global leader in the leasing and operating mid-size cargo aircraft. The partnership with Stonepeak, renowned for its infrastructure and logistics expertise, will enable ATSG to expand its global presence and service offering. The deal highlights the value of Air Transport Services Group's fleet and capabilities in supporting the air cargo market's growth through increased efficiency and logistics capabilities.

Future Market Scenario (2025 – 2032F)

- The demand for air freight will keep rising as e-commerce continues to expand, requiring fast and reliable delivery of goods globally.
- Innovations in AI, IoT, and blockchain will enhance efficiency, security, and transparency in air freight logistics.
- Increased investment in eco-friendly aircraft and greener practices will drive the adoption of sustainable air freight solutions.
- Changes in global trade policies, tariffs, and geopolitical tensions will impact air freight routes and demand.

Key Players Landscape and Outlook

Companies in the air freight industry are adopting multiple strategies to stay competitive and meet changing demands. They invest in cutting-edge technologies such as AI-powered logistics, real-time tracking systems, and automated warehouses to improve efficiency and customer experience. To satisfy the rapidly growing electronic commercial sector, companies will expand their network, optimize routes, and develop individual services for high-speed and reliable distribution. Sustainability is also important, and companies use economic, carbon compensation programs and more environmentally friendly practices to comply with environmental goals. Strategic partnerships and collaborations with e-commerce giants, freight forwarders, and logistics service providers help the company expand its market presence and strengthen its supply chain. It is also expanding its transportation capabilities by acquiring new aircraft, modernizing its fleet, and developing its cargo-centric infrastructure. Some use digital platforms to offer flexible pricing, streamlined booking processes, and increased access to small businesses. In the face of global uncertainty, airlines are diversifying their operations to include charter and express services to ensure resilience in the face of disruption. Speaking of the priorities of innovation, stability, and adaptability, the air freight company is positioned to solve future problems and maintain a competitive advantage in the dynamic market.

In January 2024, Forward Air Corporation, a United States-based premium ground transportation and related logistics services company, amended its agreement with Omni Logistics, reducing the cash payment to Omni shareholders from USD 150 million to USD 20 million and adjusting the equity share to 35% of Forward's pro forma common equity. This resolution ends the litigation between the parties, allowing Forward to accelerate its "Grow Forward" strategy and enhance its position in high-quality freight transportation. This acquisition and the streamlined legal resolution boost Forward's capabilities, enabling improved logistics solutions and fostering growth in the air freight market by strengthening market presence and operational efficiency.

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\*Companies mentioned above DO NOT hold any order as per market share and can be changed as per information available during research work.

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