

**Global Cargo Ships Market Assessment, By Vessel Type [Container Ships, Tankers, Bulk Carriers, Other], By Fuel Type [Liquified Natural Gas, Heavy Fuel Oil, Diesel], By End-use [Containerized Goods, Oil and Gas Products, Dry Bulk Commodities, Agri and Food Commodities, Automotive and Rolling Cargo, Others], By Region, Opportunities and Forecast, 2018-2032F**

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**Report description:**

Global cargo ships market is projected to witness a CAGR of 4.23% during the forecast period 2025-2032, growing from USD 40.18 billion in 2024 to USD 55.97 billion in 2032. Cargo ships are designed to carry goods, materials and products across the ocean and seas. These ships play a crucial role in world trade, carrying almost 90% of the world's trade volume, driving the global cargo ships market in the forecast period. Also, the demand for cargo ships is rising significantly, as they play a vital role in expanding global trade by enabling cost-effective, large-scale cross-border transportation of goods. The market will be impacted by expansion in e-commerce, enhanced shipping technologies, and robust investment in port facilities and trade routes. Additionally, geopolitical trends, such as the United States' trade volatilities and the United States security threats, also play a role, generating strategic reactions such as tariff adjustments and transportation discounts. In general, freighter ships greatly enhance access to the market, lower commercial barriers, and make the global supply chain more efficient, managing global economic growth. Cargo ships are essential to the expansion of global markets, enabling efficient and cost-effective transportation of goods. Their evolution, influenced by technological advances and geopolitical factors, continues to shape the dynamics of international trade. For instance, in January 2025, DP World partnered with Gemini Corporation N.V. to strengthen Canadian cargo operations. This partnership with Gemini Corporation aims to enable smarter trade and bolster the resilience of global supply chains.

Cargo Ships as Catalysts of Global Business Growth

Cargo ships are great drivers of international business expansion by enabling the mass transportation of goods across global oceans with quickness, efficiency, and economy. They make it possible for companies to reach new markets, stretch supply

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chains, and maximize production by accessing raw materials and parts globally. As globalization intensifies, cargo ships have become crucial in addressing the needs of global trade, with shipping volumes and fleet sizes constantly growing. For instance, in February 2025, A.P. Moller-Maersk A/S, an integrated logistics company, teamed up with Cochin Shipyard Ltd, a state-run shipbuilder. This partnership focuses on afloat repairs of dry docking of vessels and of ships with capabilities projected to expand over time. Advances in technology, such as automated navigation, fuel-efficient engines, and digital tracking of cargo, have further increased their role, minimized costs and increased reliability. Essentially, cargo ships not only integrate economies but also enable businesses of all sizes to play on the global stage, stimulating economic development and competitiveness in nearly all industries. It diversifies the market's revenue streams and assures consistent demand, considerably contributing to its growth.

#### AI Integration Drives the Global Cargo Ships Market Demand

Artificial intelligence (AI) will dramatically change global freight activity by promoting efficiency, sustainability, and cost reduction. One possibility that AI can achieve is route optimization, with the extended algorithms scanning actual data for weather, ocean flows and port overloads to determine the most efficient shipping route. Fuel consumption not only reduces operating costs but also reduces carbon emissions to meet the international community's agenda to meet environmental goals. AI is equally critical of predictive maintenance, and monitoring of transport equipment and systems recognizes problems before they lead to expensive failures, leading to safer and more reliable operations. AI is increasingly used by ports to plan and automate container handling, which reduces turnaround times and bottlenecks. AI also allows for the development of autonomous or semi-autonomous vessels that reduce reliance on large crews and improve navigational accuracy, particularly in complex environments. Additionally, shipping organizations and stakeholders use AI-based analyses to predict market trends, optimize freight rates, and make fact-based decisions on changing trends in retail and geopolitical change. In general, AI is suitable to improve resistance, competitiveness and ecological sustainability in the freight transport sector and meet the requirements of an increasingly globalized world.

For example, in March 2025, Seaspan Corporation expanded its AI adoption with Orca AI Ltd. for over 100 ships to enhance the safety and operations of ships. Global containership powerhouse, Seaspan Corporation, integrated its cutting-edge Sea Pod digital watchkeeper across its entire fleet to support significant safety improvements and operational cost savings.

#### Dominance of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in Global Cargo Ships Market

Liquid natural gas (LNG) topography holds the largest market share in the global cargo ships market, driven by increasing environmental requirements, stricter emissions regulations and a cleaner transition to fuel in the shipping sector. LNG is an environmentally friendly fuel compared to traditional sea fuels. LNG reduces sulfur oxide emissions (SOX) by almost 100%, nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions by up to 90%, and carbon dioxide emissions by 20%. So far, the LNG-led world fleet has over 400 services and hundreds of orders, including huge vessels, oil tankers and cruise ships. Major ship giants are planning to invest in LNG technology to meet the regulatory requirements and sustainability goals.

For instance, in March 2025, Eastern Pacific Shipping Pte Ltd. and DongHua Entec. Co. Ltd. announced their collaboration on the development and installation of a high-pressure compressor for an LNG-fueled container ship under construction at China's NTS shipyard.

#### Asia-Pacific Dominates the Global Cargo Ships Market

The Asia-Pacific continues to be one of the world's leading regions in the global cargo ships market maintained by a mix of strategic locations, strong infrastructure and strong economic growth. The region is home to some of the busiest and technologically advanced ports in the world. Equipped with classic infrastructure such as low water lying areas and advanced automated cargo administration, the ports permit streamlined handling of bumper cargo volumes. Furthermore, Asia-Pacific has been a significant contributor to global cargo ships growth, owing to the presence of giant market players, rising global trade volumes, and an increase in trade-related agreements.

For instance, in May 2024, Ocean Infinity Limited and Cyan Renewables Pte. Ltd signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide a wide range of logistical services and infrastructure to facilitate the transportation of offshore wind components. Both companies aim to provide comprehensive marine information services for offshore renewables projects in the Asia-Pacific region.

#### Impact of U.S. Tariffs on Global Cargo Ships Market

-[Short Term Surge in Shipping Demand: The Temporary reduction in U.S. tariffs has led to a rush to import goods and materials, which spikes the shipping volumes and revenue.

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-□Stimulates Domestic Supply Chain: Instead, reliance on other countries, locals are encouraging manufacturing to their own country.

-□Increased Cost for Customers: Due to rise on tariffs, customers are paying higher prices for the same product which they are buying at low cost which contributes to inflation and reduced purchasing power.

-□Impact on E-Commerce and Small Businesses: Newly launched startups and small platforms replying to low-value shipments facing issues to sell their products at higher costs.

#### Key Players Landscape and Outlook

Continuous innovation characterizes the landscape of cargo ships globally, as companies compete to outperform one another in terms of low-cost transportation, fast supply, energy efficiency, and unique features. The market prognosis remains positive, owing to increased demand for no-damage supply, AI, and professional workloads. Cargo ship manufacturers are concerned with supply chain resilience, energy efficiency, and environmental practices, which will likely define the industry's future.

Collaborations and developing technologies are projected to increase competition in this fast-paced market.

For example, in May 2025, HD Hyundai and A.P. Moller □ Maersk signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a partnership on ship decarbonization solutions, and HD Hyundai is also looking to further leverage Maersk's end-to-end integrated logistics solutions for its affiliates.

#### Table of Contents:

- 1.□Project Scope and Definitions
- 2.□Research Methodology
- 3.□Impact of U.S. Tariffs
- 4.□Executive Summary
- 5.□Voice of Customers
  - 5.1.□Respondent Demographics
  - 5.2.□Brand Awareness
  - 5.3.□Factors Considered in Purchase Decisions
  - 5.4.□Operational Efficiency
  - 5.5.□Environmental Compliance
  - 5.6.□Lifecycle Cost Optimization
  - 5.7.□Cargo Capacity Scalability
- 6.□Global Cargo Ships Market Outlook, 2018-2032F
  - 6.1.□Market Size Analysis & Forecast
    - 6.1.1.□By Value
    - 6.1.2.□By Volume
  - 6.2.□Market Share Analysis & Forecast
    - 6.2.1.□By Vessel Type
      - 6.2.1.1.□Container Ships
      - 6.2.1.2.□Tankers
      - 6.2.1.3.□Bulk Carriers
      - 6.2.1.4.□Others
    - 6.2.2.□By Fuel Type
      - 6.2.2.1.□Liquified Natural Gas
      - 6.2.2.2.□Heavy Fuel Oil
      - 6.2.2.3.□Diesel
    - 6.2.3.□By End-use
      - 6.2.3.1.□Containerized Goods
      - 6.2.3.2.□Oil and Gas Products
      - 6.2.3.3.□Dry Bulk Commodities

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- 6.2.3.4. Agri and Food Commodities
- 6.2.3.5. Automotive and Rolling Cargo
- 6.2.3.6. Others
- 6.2.4. By Region
  - 6.2.4.1. North America
  - 6.2.4.2. Europe
  - 6.2.4.3. Asia-Pacific
  - 6.2.4.4. South America
  - 6.2.4.5. Middle East and Africa
- 6.2.5. By Company Market Share Analysis (Top 5 Companies and Others - By Value, 2024)
- 6.3. Market Map Analysis, 2024
  - 6.3.1. By Vessel Type
  - 6.3.2. By Fuel Type
  - 6.3.3. By End-use
  - 6.3.4. By Region
- 7. North America Cargo Ships Market Outlook, 2018-2032F
  - 7.1. Market Size Analysis & Forecast
    - 7.1.1. By Value
    - 7.1.2. By Volume
  - 7.2. Market Share Analysis & Forecast
    - 7.2.1. By Vessel Type
      - 7.2.1.1. Container Ships
      - 7.2.1.2. Tankers
      - 7.2.1.3. Bulk Carriers
      - 7.2.1.4. Others
    - 7.2.2. By Fuel Type
      - 7.2.2.1. Liquefied Natural Gas
      - 7.2.2.2. Heavy Fuel Oil
      - 7.2.2.3. Diesel
    - 7.2.3. By End-use
      - 7.2.3.1. Containerized Goods
      - 7.2.3.2. Oil and Gas Products
      - 7.2.3.3. Dry Bulk Commodities
      - 7.2.3.4. Agri and Food Commodities
      - 7.2.3.5. Automotive and Rolling Cargo
      - 7.2.3.6. Others
  - 7.2.4. By Country Share
    - 7.2.4.1. United States
    - 7.2.4.2. Canada
    - 7.2.4.3. Mexico
- 7.3. Country Market Assessment
  - 7.3.1. United States Cargo Ships Market Outlook, 2018-2032F\*
    - 7.3.1.1. Market Size Analysis & Forecast
      - 7.3.1.1.1. By Value
      - 7.3.1.1.2. By Volume
    - 7.3.1.2. Market Share Analysis & Forecast
      - 7.3.1.2.1. By Vessel Type

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- 7.3.1.2.1.1.□Container Ships
- 7.3.1.2.1.2.□Tankers
- 7.3.1.2.1.3.□Bulk Carriers
- 7.3.1.2.1.4.□Others
- 7.3.1.2.2.□By Fuel Type
- 7.3.1.2.2.1.□Liquified Natural Gas
- 7.3.1.2.2.2.□Heavy Fuel Oil
- 7.3.1.2.2.3.□Diesel
- 7.3.1.2.3.□By End-use
- 7.3.1.2.3.1.□Containerized Goods
- 7.3.1.2.3.2.□Oil and Gas Products
- 7.3.1.2.3.3.□Dry Bulk Commodities
- 7.3.1.2.3.4.□Agri and Food Commodities
- 7.3.1.2.3.5.□Automotive and Rolling Cargo
- 7.3.1.2.3.6.□Others
- 7.3.2.□Canada
- 7.3.3.□Mexico
- \*All segments will be provided for all regions and countries covered
- 8.□Europe Cargo Ships Market Outlook, 2018-2032F
- 8.1.□Germany
- 8.2.□France
- 8.3.□Italy
- 8.4.□United Kingdom
- 8.5.□Russia
- 8.6.□Netherlands
- 8.7.□Spain
- 8.8.□Turkey
- 8.9.□Poland
- 9.□Asia-Pacific Cargo Ships Market Outlook, 2018-2032F
- 9.1.□India
- 9.2.□China
- 9.3.□Japan
- 9.4.□Australia
- 9.5.□Vietnam
- 9.6.□South Korea
- 9.7.□Indonesia
- 9.8.□Philippines
- 10.□South America Cargo Ships Market Outlook, 2018-2032F
- 10.1.□Brazil
- 10.2.□Argentina
- 11.□Middle East and Africa Cargo Ships Market Outlook, 2018-2032F
- 11.1.□Saudi Arabia
- 11.2.□UAE
- 11.3.□South Africa
- 12.□Porter's Five Forces Analysis
- 13.□PESTLE Analysis
- 14.□Market Dynamics

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- 14.1.□Market Drivers
- 14.2.□Market Challenges
- 15.□Market Trends and Developments
- 16.□Case Studies
- 17.□Competitive Landscape
- 17.1.□Competition Matrix of Top 5 Market Leaders
- 17.2.□SWOT Analysis for Top 5 Players
- 17.3.□Key Players Landscape for Top 10 Market Players
- 17.3.1.□ Hanwha Corporation
- 17.3.1.1.□Company Details
- 17.3.1.2.□Key Management Personnel
- 17.3.1.3.□Products
- 17.3.1.4.□Financials
- 17.3.1.5.□Key Market Focus and Geographical Presence
- 17.3.1.6.□Recent Developments/Collaborations/Partnerships/Mergers and Acquisition
- 17.3.2.□FINCANTIERI S.p.A.
- 17.3.3.□Imabari Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.
- 17.3.4.□HD Hyundai
- 17.3.5.□Mitsui E&S Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.
- 17.3.6.□Samsung Heavy Industries Nigeria (SHIN)/ SHI-MCI FZE
- 17.3.7.□China Shipbuilding Trading Co., Ltd.
- 17.3.8.□Yangzijiang Shipbuilding Group Ltd.
- 17.3.9.□ General Dynamics National Steel & Shipbuilding Co.
- 17.3.10.□Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.
- \*Companies mentioned above DO NOT hold any order as per market share and can be changed as per information available during research work.
- 18.□Strategic Recommendations
- 19.□About Us and Disclaimer

**Global Cargo Ships Market Assessment, By Vessel Type [Container Ships, Tankers, Bulk Carriers, Other], By Fuel Type [Liquified Natural Gas, Heavy Fuel Oil, Diesel], By End-use [Containerized Goods, Oil and Gas Products, Dry Bulk Commodities, Agri and Food Commodities, Automotive and Rolling Cargo, Others], By Region, Opportunities and Forecast, 2018-2032F**

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