

United States Reverse Logistics - Market Share Analysis, Industry Trends & Statistics, Growth Forecasts (2026 - 2031)

Market Report | 2026-02-09 | 154 pages | Mordor Intelligence

AVAILABLE LICENSES:

- Single User License \$4750.00
- Team License (1-7 Users) \$5250.00
- Site License \$6500.00
- Corporate License \$8750.00

Report description:

United States Reverse Logistics Market Analysis

United States Reverse Logistics market size in 2026 is estimated at USD 199.2 billion, growing from 2025 value of USD 186.87 billion with 2031 projections showing USD 274.29 billion, growing at 6.6% CAGR over 2026-2031.

Robust e-commerce growth, heightened regulatory scrutiny of electronic waste, and brand strategies that use friction-free returns to win customer loyalty are the chief forces behind this trajectory. Transportation continues to absorb the bulk of spending because returned items originate from millions of dispersed addresses and require rapid repositioning into central processing hubs. At the same time, technology investments in robotics, computer vision, and AI-enabled disposition engines are lowering unit costs, turning returned products into quickly monetized assets, and improving recovery rates. Consolidation among major logistics providers-underscored by headline acquisitions in 2025-signals that only operators with dedicated reverse networks, cold-chain assets, and compliance expertise can fully monetize the opportunity.

United States Reverse Logistics Market Trends and Insights

E-commerce Boom Lifting Return Volumes

Online spending growth translates almost directly into higher returns. Retailers frequently encounter "bracketing," where shoppers order multiple variants with the expectation of sending most of them back, turning reverse flow speed into a

Scotts International. EU Vat number: PL 6772247784

tel. 0048 603 394 346 e-mail: support@scotts-international.com

www.scotts-international.com

pre-purchase selling point. Major parcel carriers now embed returns pick-ups in last-mile route plans to minimize empty-truck miles, an adjustment that cuts dwell time and limits congestion at inbound docks. Returns centers equipped with high-throughput conveyors are also scaling to meet the post-holiday influx, preventing stockouts by redeploying inventory within 48 hours. National retailers that excel at this cycle improve customer lifetime value while recovering more working capital.

Liberal Returns Policies as Competitive Differentiator

Generous return windows, once a courtesy, are now pivotal to conversion. Direct-to-consumer brands that originated the "try-before-you-buy" model require partners that can process and refund within hours, not days, to maintain customer satisfaction scores. Reverse networks, therefore, mirror forward networks in geographic reach and technology stack, linking parcel lockers, in-store counters, and mail-back channels to the same inventory cloud. AI-driven fraud analytics flag unusually high-return personas, allowing retailers to sustain lenient policies without escalating shrinkage. Providers that master this balance earn sticky multi-year contracts from apparel and electronics merchants.

High Transportation & Handling Costs

Reverse lanes are inherently imbalanced, with trucks often returning partially filled, which elevates cost per unit. Fuel price volatility amplifies the challenge; fleet operators must align with emerging Phase 3 greenhouse-gas standards that require expensive equipment upgrades. To protect margins, providers consolidate parcels into regional cross-docks and negotiate dynamic backhaul agreements to boost load factors. Yet for low-value merchandise, transportation alone can erase resale profit, pushing volume toward liquidation instead of refurbishment.

Other drivers and restraints analyzed in the detailed report include:

Sustainability & E-waste Regulations Automation & Robotics in Returns Centers Omnichannel Returns Complexity

For complete list of drivers and restraints, kindly check the Table Of Contents.

Segment Analysis

Transportation generated 64.40% of the United States Reverse Logistics market size in 2025, underscoring the primacy of collection and repositioning in value recovery. Parcel and less-than-truckload carriers have deployed dedicated returns lanes that sync with outbound routes, maximizing network density. Airfreight continues to handle high-value or temperature-sensitive returns, notably from the medical-device trade. Warehousing follows as the secondary cost center; multi-client campuses near major ports and interstates shorten cycle times for cross-docked items. Other Value-added Services (repair, refurbishment, grading, and certified destruction) capture rising demand as brands pursue circular models, propelling this sub-segment's 4.65% CAGR to 2031. Providers bundling transportation with these services command premium yields because they control the full disposition chain.

Second-generation facilities now combine robotic sortation, data-sanitized test labs, and e-commerce photo booths to list recovered items on recommerce marketplaces the same day they arrive. This shift embeds incremental revenue inside the United States Reverse Logistics market rather than outsourcing it to liquidation wholesalers. Long-haul carriers are likewise adding dockside triage to reduce wasted miles, proving that functional integration yields both margin and sustainability wins.

The United States Reverse Logistics Market Report is Segmented by Function (Transportation, Warehousing, and Other Value-Added Services), End User (Consumer & Retail, Home & Decor, Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals, FMCG, and Other End Users). The Market Forecasts are Provided in Terms of Value (USD).

Scotts International. EU Vat number: PL 6772247784

tel. 0048 603 394 346 e-mail: support@scotts-international.com

www.scotts-international.com

List of Companies Covered in this Report:

United Parcel Service (UPS) FedEx Corp. XPO Logistics DSV DHL Supply Chain C.H. Robinson Worldwide Geodis Yusen Logistics CEVA Logistics Kuehne+Nagel ShipBob United States Postal Service (USPS) Excelsior Integrated LLC Ryder Kenco Logistics Yellow Corporation RXO Inc. ArcBest AP Express Bluebird Express

Additional Benefits:

The market estimate (ME) sheet in Excel format
3 months of analyst support

Table of Contents:

- 1 Introduction
 - 1.1 Study Assumptions & Market Definition
 - 1.2 Scope of the Study
- 2 Research Methodology
- 3 Executive Summary
- 4 Market Landscape
 - 4.1 Market Overview
 - 4.2 Market Drivers
 - 4.2.1 E-commerce boom lifting return volumes
 - 4.2.2 Liberal returns policies as a competitive differentiator
 - 4.2.3 Sustainability & e-waste regulations
 - 4.2.4 Automation & robotics in returns centers
 - 4.2.5 AI-driven predictive return-prevention analytics
 - 4.2.6 Monetization of recommerce marketplaces
 - 4.3 Market Restraints
 - 4.3.1 High transportation & handling costs
 - 4.3.2 Omnichannel returns complexity
 - 4.3.3 Rising returns fraud
 - 4.3.4 Refurbish/recycle capacity bottlenecks for bulky goods
 - 4.4 Value / Supply-Chain Analysis
 - 4.5 Technological Outlook
 - 4.6 Regulatory Landscape
 - 4.7 Porter's Five Forces
 - 4.7.1 Threat of New Entrants
 - 4.7.2 Bargaining Power of Suppliers
 - 4.7.3 Bargaining Power of Buyers
 - 4.7.4 Threat of Substitutes
 - 4.7.5 Competitive Rivalry
 - 4.8 Spotlight - US E-commerce Industry
 - 4.9 Study on Changing Consumer Behavior & Preferences
 - 4.10 Impact of Cost of Returns on Retailers - Analyst View

Scotts International. EU Vat number: PL 6772247784

tel. 0048 603 394 346 e-mail: support@scotts-international.com

www.scotts-international.com

5 Market Size & Growth Forecasts

5.1 By Function

5.1.1 Transportation

5.1.1.1 Road

5.1.1.2 Air

5.1.1.3 Other Modes

5.1.2 Warehousing (Storage, Distribution, Consolidation)

5.1.3 Other Value-added Services (Return Processing, Restocking, Refurbishment, Disposition)

5.2 By End User

5.2.1 Consumer & Retail

5.2.2 Home & Decor

5.2.3 Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals

5.2.4 FMCG

5.2.5 Other End Users

6 Competitive Landscape

6.1 Market Concentration

6.2 Strategic Moves

6.3 Market Share Analysis

6.4 Company Profiles {(includes Global level Overview, Market level overview, Core Segments, Financials as available, Strategic Information, Market Rank/Share, Products & Services, Recent Developments)}

6.4.1 United Parcel Service (UPS)

6.4.2 FedEx Corp.

6.4.3 XPO Logistics

6.4.4 DSV

6.4.5 DHL Supply Chain

6.4.6 C.H. Robinson Worldwide

6.4.7 Geodis

6.4.8 Yusen Logistics

6.4.9 CEVA Logistics

6.4.10 Kuehne+Nagel

6.4.11 ShipBob

6.4.12 United States Postal Service (USPS)

6.4.13 Excelsior Integrated LLC

6.4.14 Ryder

6.4.15 Kenco Logistics

6.4.16 Yellow Corporation

6.4.17 RXO Inc.

6.4.18 ArcBest

6.4.19 AP Express

6.4.20 Bluebird Express

7 Market Opportunities & Future Outlook

7.1 White-space & Unmet-need Assessment

Scotts International. EU Vat number: PL 6772247784

tel. 0048 603 394 346 e-mail: support@scotts-international.com

www.scotts-international.com

United States Reverse Logistics - Market Share Analysis, Industry Trends & Statistics, Growth Forecasts (2026 - 2031)

Market Report | 2026-02-09 | 154 pages | Mordor Intelligence

To place an Order with Scotts International:

- Print this form
- Complete the relevant blank fields and sign
- Send as a scanned email to support@scotts-international.com

ORDER FORM:

Select license	License	Price
	Single User License	\$4750.00
	Team License (1-7 Users)	\$5250.00
	Site License	\$6500.00
	Corporate License	\$8750.00
		VAT
		Total

*Please circle the relevant license option. For any questions please contact support@scotts-international.com or 0048 603 394 346.

** VAT will be added at 23% for Polish based companies, individuals and EU based companies who are unable to provide a valid EU Vat Numbers.

Email*	<input type="text"/>	Phone*	<input type="text"/>
First Name*	<input type="text"/>	Last Name*	<input type="text"/>
Job title*	<input type="text"/>		
Company Name*	<input type="text"/>	EU Vat / Tax ID / NIP number*	<input type="text"/>
Address*	<input type="text"/>	City*	<input type="text"/>
Zip Code*	<input type="text"/>	Country*	<input type="text"/>
		Date	<input type="text" value="2026-02-27"/>
		Signature	

Scotts International. EU Vat number: PL 6772247784

tel. 0048 603 394 346 e-mail: support@scotts-international.com

www.scotts-international.com

