

Intermodal Transport Market Projected to Expand as Automated Gate Systems Gain Traction | Persistence Market Research

North America leads the intermodal transport market, while Asia, driven by automotive demand, is set for the fastest growth through 2030

BRENTFORD, ENGLAND, UNITED KINGDOM, October 10, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Overview of the Market

The global [intermodal transport market](#) is witnessing steady expansion, driven by the increasing demand for cost-efficient, sustainable, and timely freight solutions. Intermodal transport, which involves the movement of goods using multiple modes of transportation such as rail, road, and sea without directly handling the cargo during mode transfers, is gaining popularity among logistics companies. The market is poised to grow significantly due to developments in fast-track transportation systems, technological advancements in security and tracking, and the rising preference of sectors such as FMCG for efficient supply chain solutions.

In 2024, the global intermodal transport market size is estimated to exceed US\$ 150 billion, with a projected CAGR of approximately 5–6% over the forecast period. Among transport modes, rail-road intermodal transport dominates the market due to cost efficiency, eco-friendliness, and superior handling of bulk cargo over long distances. Geographically, North America leads the market, largely owing to robust infrastructure, advanced logistics frameworks, and widespread adoption of automated systems by leading shippers. The presence of major railroads and containerized freight facilities further strengthens the region's dominance.

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Key Highlights from the Report



Research Reports On

Intermodal Transport Market

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Intermodal Transport Market Share

Intermodal transport adoption is rising due to cost-effective and eco-friendly logistics solutions.

Fast-track systems are enhancing operational efficiency in intermodal freight handling.

FMCG and retail sectors are increasingly integrating intermodal solutions into supply chains.

Automated gate systems and biometric identification improve security at intermodal ramps.

Rail-road intermodal transport remains the leading segment by mode.

North America holds the largest market share due to advanced infrastructure and technology adoption.

Market Segmentation

The intermodal transport market can be segmented based on mode of transport and end-user industry. In terms of modes, rail-road intermodal transport is the most preferred segment due to its cost efficiency, environmental benefits, and suitability for long-distance freight. Additionally, road-sea and rail-sea intermodal solutions are gaining traction, especially in regions with significant port activity, facilitating global trade flows efficiently.

From the end-user perspective, the FMCG sector leads in adopting intermodal transport to ensure rapid product delivery while minimizing costs. Other notable segments include automotive, e-commerce, and chemical industries, which leverage intermodal transport for reliable, timely, and safe cargo movement. Companies like Kimberly-Clark are examples of large-scale adopters integrating intermodal solutions into their supply chain strategies.

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Regional Insights

North America dominates the intermodal transport market due to well-developed rail networks, containerized cargo handling systems, and automated security technologies. The region's robust logistics ecosystem encourages businesses to adopt intermodal solutions for enhanced supply chain efficiency.

Europe follows closely, driven by a strong focus on sustainability, environmental regulations, and investments in green transport initiatives. The expansion of intermodal terminals and cross-border rail connectivity further boosts market growth in this region.

Market Drivers

The market is primarily driven by cost efficiency and eco-friendly benefits associated with intermodal transport. Companies are increasingly seeking solutions that reduce carbon footprint while maintaining high-speed logistics. Technological advancements, including automated gate systems, optical character recognition, and biometric identification, are enhancing operational efficiency and cargo security, further accelerating adoption.

Market Restraints

Despite growth, the market faces challenges, including high initial infrastructure costs for developing intermodal terminals and complex regulatory compliance across regions. Additionally, delays caused by coordination between multiple transport modes can impact reliability, limiting adoption in certain geographies.

Market Opportunities

Significant opportunities exist in emerging markets where infrastructure development and trade volumes are increasing. Expanding port facilities, improved rail connectivity, and adoption of smart logistics technologies offer untapped growth potential. Furthermore, growing demand from e-commerce and FMCG sectors for fast, cost-effective, and reliable delivery services presents lucrative opportunities for market players.

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Reasons to Buy the Report

- Comprehensive analysis of the global intermodal transport market size, share, and growth trends.
- Detailed insights into key drivers, restraints, and emerging opportunities.
- Thorough segmentation by mode of transport and end-user industries.
- Regional market intelligence highlighting North America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific trends.
- Profiles of key players and their strategic initiatives to gain competitive advantage.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How Big is the Intermodal Transport Market globally?

Who are the Key Players in the Global Market for Intermodal Transport?

What is the Projected Growth Rate of the Intermodal Transport Market?

What is the Market Forecast for Intermodal Transport in 2032?

Which Region is Estimated to Dominate the Intermodal Transport Industry through the Forecast Period?

Company Insights

Key players operating in the intermodal transport market include:

Union Pacific Corporation

CSX Corporation

BNSF Railway Company

Kansas City Southern

Maersk Line

Hapag-Lloyd AG

C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc.

Recent Developments:

Kimberly-Clark expanded its intermodal freight operations across North America to improve supply chain efficiency and reduce transportation costs.

Major U.S. railroads implemented Automated Gate Systems (AGS) featuring optical character recognition, biometric identification, and HD video imaging to enhance security at intermodal ramps.

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