

Europe Bulk Cargo Shipping Market Size & Share Analysis - Growth Trends and Forecast (2026 - 2031)

> **Industry:** Maritime, Port & Container Operations (Logistics & Supply Chain)

> **Source:** <https://www.mordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/europe-bulk-cargo-shipping-market>

> **Scraped Date:** 2026-09-17

Executive Market Summary

Market Metric	Details
Base Market Size	USD 111.76 billion
Projected Forecast (2031)	USD 111.76 billion
Growth Rate (CAGR)	3.81 %
Largest Market Region	N/A
Fastest-Growing Region	N/A

Market Visualizations & Infographics

! [Major players in Europe Bulk Cargo Shipping industry](images/chart_2.png)

! [Europe Bulk Cargo Shipping Market Size](images/chart_3.png)

! [Europe Bulk Cargo Shipping Market Share by Cargo Type, 2025](images/chart_4.png)

! [Europe Bulk Cargo Shipping Market Share by Shipping Route, 2025](images/chart_5.png)

! [Europe Bulk Cargo Shipping Market Concentration](images/chart_6.png)

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Comprehensive Research Analysis

Overview Points List Flex 49 Share Feature End

Market Overview

Study Period	2020 - 2031
Forecast Data Period	2026 - 2031
Base Year Market Size (2025)	USD 107.46 Billion
Market Size (2026)	USD 111.76 Billion
Market Size (2031)	USD 134.72 Billion
Growth Rate (2026 - 2032)	3.81 %
Market Concentration	Medium

Major Players*Disclaimer: Major Players sorted in no particular order

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Market Overview

Europe Bulk Cargo Shipping Market Analysis by Mordor IntelligenceThe European bulk cargo shipping market size was valued at USD 107.46 billion in 2025 and is estimated to grow from USD 111.76 billion in 2026 to reach USD 134.72 billion by 2031, at a CAGR of 3.81% during the forecast period (2026-2031).

The European bulk cargo shipping market is shaped by changing energy supplies, fleet compliance requirements, and industrial sourcing routes. Cargo flows are becoming more varied as LNG, biomass, fertilizers, and specialized liquid products gain importance. Operators need to manage higher reporting requirements while maintaining dependable service through busy ports. Investment opportunities center on cleaner vessels, terminal upgrades, and better use of berth capacity. These conditions support demand, but they also increase the cost and operational discipline required to compete.

Key Report Takeaways

- * By cargo type, dry bulk cargo held 62.63% of the Europe bulk cargo shipping market share in 2025, while liquid bulk cargo is forecast to grow at a 5.23% CAGR through 2031.
- * By shipping route, international services accounted for 78.29% of the Europe bulk cargo shipping market size in 2025, while domestic (coastal) routes are forecast to grow at a 4.90% CAGR through 2031.
- * By end-use industry, mining and metals accounted for 27.91% of the Europe bulk cargo shipping market share in 2025, while chemicals and petrochemicals are forecast to grow at a 5.67% CAGR through 2031.
- * By country, the Netherlands held 14.09% of the Europe bulk cargo shipping market revenue in 2025, while Belgium is forecast to grow at a 6.44% CAGR through 2031.

Key Market Trends

Europe Bulk Cargo Shipping Market Trends and InsightsDrivers Impact Analysis*

Driver	I	(~) % Impact on CAGR Forecast	I	Geographic Relevance	I	Impact Timeline
Energy Transition						
Cargo Rebalancing		+1.2%		Global, with core effects on the North Sea, Baltic, and Mediterranean corridors		Medium term (2-4 years)
Nearshoring				Through European Bulk Corridors	+0.9%	Central and Eastern Europe, Benelux, Baltic Sea, and Rhine-delta gateways
Inland-Waterway and Short-Sea Modal Shift		+0.7%		Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, the Rhine-Scheldt basin, and the Nordic routes		Medium term (2-4 years)
Port Incentives for Cleaner Bulk Vessels		+0.5%		Rotterdam, Antwerp, Hamburg, and Mediterranean ports		Medium term (2-4 years)
Replacement Demand for Aging Short-Sea Fleets		+0.4%		European short-sea network, Nordic routes, and Baltic Sea routes		Long term (≥ 4 years)
Digital Berth Scheduling and Cargo Visibility		+0.3%		Northern European ports, Benelux terminals, and the Rhine corridor		Short term (≤ 2 years)
Source: Mordor Intelligence						

Competitive Landscape

Competitive Landscape

The European bulk cargo shipping market is moderately concentrated, with diversi

fied operators, short-sea specialists, and traders all serving different cargo and route needs. The market comprises operators with varying geographic and cargo-specific strengths across dry bulk, liquid bulk, and European route categories. MOL completed its acquisition of a 72% stake in Gearbulk in 2025, adding 60 open-hatch bulk carriers and taking its dry-bulk fleet to 338 vessels. The transaction expanded the company's specialty-bulk network in Europe. Star Bulk continued its energy-saving device program during 2025, completing 55 of 80 planned installations. It also received 3 of the 8 scheduled Kamsarmax newbuildings in the second quarter of 2026. These actions show that fleet efficiency and compliance readiness have become important competitive measures. The European bulk cargo shipping market rewards companies that can invest in vessels while preserving service flexibility.

The aging short-sea fleet is an important opportunity for carriers with access to financing and modern vessel designs. More than 50% of the European short-sea fleet operating now is over 20 years old. Operators with FuelEU-aligned tonnage can respond to cargo tenders that include emissions criteria. Oldendorff Carriers installed Starlink low-earth-orbit connectivity on more than 80 owned bulk carriers in June 2026. The project supports real-time data exchange and operating visibility across its fleet. Cuxport introduced Kaleris Navis Mixed Cargo Terminal Operating System in January 2025 to digitize billing and improve cargo handling. Digital vessel and terminal tools are becoming practical requirements for efficient port calls. Larger operators can spread technology and compliance costs across more ships and contracts.

EU emissions rules can encourage consolidation because scale helps companies manage technology investment and compliance pools. Smaller operators can remain relevant when they serve specialized routes, cargoes, or customer relationships. Fleet quality, terminal access, and dependable scheduling are more important than a single standardized operating model. Commodity traders that integrate freight capacity can also manage exposure to supply-chain disruption. Port congestion and labor interruptions may favor companies with broader network options and stronger customer communication. Competition will remain multi-tiered because the region requires different vessel classes and cargo-handling capabilities.

Europe Bulk Cargo Shipping Industry Leaders* Oldendorff Carriers

* Ultrabulk A/S

* Star Bulk Carriers

* Golden Ocean Group

* Berge Bulk

* *Disclaimer: Major Players sorted in no particular order

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Component Component 3 Scope Of The Report Bottom

Europe Bulk Cargo Shipping Market Report ScopeBy Cargo TypeDry Bulk Cargo | Iron Ore |
| Coal |
| Grain (Wheat, Corn, Soybeans, etc.) |
| Fertilizers |
| Cement & Clinker |
| Bauxite & Alumina |
| Steel Products |
| Other Minor Dry Bulk Commodities |
Liquid Bulk Cargo | Crude Oil |
| Refined Petroleum Products |
| Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) |

- | Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) |
- | Chemicals |
- | Edible & Vegetable Oils |
- | Molasses |
- | Other Liquid Bulk Commodities |

Segmentation Accordion Item

By Country

- United Kingdom |
- Germany |
- France |
- Spain |
- Italy |
- Belgium |
- Netherlands |
- NORDICS (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden) |
- Rest of Europe |

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the value of the European bulk cargo shipping market in 2026?

The European bulk cargo shipping market size was USD 111.76 billion in 2026 and is forecast to reach USD 134.72 billion by 2031 at a 3.81% CAGR.

Which cargo category leads European bulk shipping?

Dry bulk led in 2025, supported by iron ore, grain, fertilizers, cement, and steel products.

Why is LNG important to European bulk cargo shipping?

Rotterdam handled 13 million tons of LNG in 2025, up 15.1% from 2024, reflecting changes in European energy supply.

Which routes are important for bulk cargo movements in Europe?

International routes form the main volume base, while short-sea and inland-waterway routes can gain from modal-shift policies and fleet renewal.

What is slowing European shipping operations?

Emissions compliance costs, congestion, labor interruptions, cyclic demand, and limited terminal capacity can affect cost and schedule reliability.

How are companies responding to new requirements?

Companies are investing in cleaner fleets, vessel efficiency, digital connectivity, berth planning, and terminal upgrades.