

# Container 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/global-container-shipping-market>](<https://www.mordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/global-container-shipping-market>)

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

## Executive Market Summary

| Market Metric             | Details            |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Base Market Size          | USD 123.14 billion |
| Projected Forecast (2031) | USD 123.14 billion |
| Growth Rate (CAGR)        | 2.92 %             |
| Largest Market Region     | N/A                |
| Fastest-Growing Region    | N/A                |

## Market Visualizations & Infographics

!Major players in Container Shipping industry(images/chart\_2.png)

!Container Shipping Market (2025 - 2030)(images/chart\_3.png)

!Container Shipping Market: Market Share by Container Size, 2025(images/chart\_4.png)

!Container Shipping Market: Market Share by Service Type, 2025(images/chart\_5.png)

!Container Shipping Market CAGR (%), Growth Rate by Region(images/chart\_6.png)

!Container Shipping Market(images/chart\_7.png)

!footer background image(images/chart\_10.png)

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!GPTW(images/chart\_19.png)

## Comprehensive Research Analysis

### Overview Points List Flex 49 Share Feature End

Market OverviewStudy Period | 2020 - 2031 |

Market Size (2026) | USD 123.14 Billion |

Market Size (2031) | USD 142.07 Billion |

Growth Rate (2026 - 2031) | 2.92 % |

Fastest Growing Market | Asia Pacific |

Largest Market | Asia Pacific |

Market Concentration | Low |

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

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### ### Market Overview

Container Shipping Market Analysis by Mordor Intelligence  
The Container Shipping Market size is expected to grow from USD 119.65 billion in 2025 to USD 123.14 billion in 2026 and is forecast to reach USD 142.07 billion by 2031 at 2.92% CAGR over 2026-2031.

Slower fleet-wide speed, ongoing Red Sea diversions, and an expanded regulatory cost base are moderating supply even as trade agreements and e-commerce replenish underlying demand. Carriers are concentrating on network reliability, with new alliance formations targeting on-time performance above 90% while reallocating capacity toward the most resilient corridors. Terminal ownership continues to rise as a defensive hedge against landside congestion and as a lever to capture new revenue pools. Fuel cost volatility remains the primary profitability swing factor, yet dual-fuel newbuild orders and incremental efficiency upgrades are gradually lowering per-unit emissions and bunker consumption. Against this backdrop, the container shipping market is transitioning from rate-driven earnings to efficiency-driven returns as technology adoption and environmental compliance reshape operating models.

Key Report Takeaways\* By container size, 40-foot units captured 50.62% of container shipping market share in 2025, and the segment is projected to post a 3.74% CAGR to 2031.

\* By container type, reefer containers are expected to expand at a 3.36% CAGR through 2031, outpacing general-purpose boxes thanks to pharmaceutical and fresh produce demand.

\* By service, Full-Container-Load accounted for 76.25% of the container shipping market size in 2025 and is forecast to advance at a 3.12% CAGR during 2026-2031

\* By end-user, the FMCG and retail segment led with 26.45% share in 2025; health care and pharmaceuticals is projected to record a 3.62% CAGR to 2031.

\* By geography, Asia-Pacific held 40.55% of 2025 revenue and is anticipated to maintain the fastest regional growth at a 4.12% CAGR through 2031, supported by intra-Asian trade integration and port capacity additions.

### ### Key Market Trends

Market Trends and Insights  
Drivers Impact Analysis of Container Shipping Market\*  
Driver | (~) % Impact on CAGR Forecast | Geographic Relevance | Impact Timeline |

Rising volume of international trade | +0.8% | Global | Medium term (2-4 years) |

Expansion of free-trade agreements | +0.4% | EU-Mercosur, USMCA regions | Long term ( $\geq 4$  years) |

Rapid e-commerce containerization | +0.6% | North America, Asia-Pacific | Short term ( $\leq 2$  years) |

IMO 2023 carbon regulations drive renewal | +0.5% | Global | Medium term (2-4 years) |

Arctic route viability | +0.2% | Northern Europe, Asia-Pacific | Long term ( $\geq 4$  years) |

AI-enabled predictive routing & scheduling | +0.3% | Global | Short term ( $\leq 2$  years) |

Source: Mordor Intelligence |

### ### Competitive Landscape

Competitive Landscape

Oligopolistic concentration defines the container shipping market, with the top 10 carriers controlling roughly 85% of deployed capacity. MSC's USD 24 billion acquisition of Hutchison Ports terminals added 51 million TEU of annual handling capacity, cementing the line's integrated port-to-ocean model and lifting its projected terminal market share to 15% by 2028. Alliance realignment effective January 2025 dissolved the 2M partnership and established the Maersk-Hapag-Lloyd Gemini network, targeting schedule reliability above 90% through tighter service loops and coordinated slow steaming. The Ocean Alliance extended its pact through 2032, emphasizing service breadth rather than direct consolidation.

Technology adoption is now the premier differentiation lever. MSC and CMA CGM deploy AI-based voyage planning and predictive maintenance suites that lower bunker consumption and unplanned downtime. DB Schenker's Ocean Bridge platform expands data access to shippers, integrating inland milestones and carbon footprint dashboards. These digital advances heighten switching costs for cargo owners and create service quality tiers within an otherwise commoditized rate environment.

Regulatory compliance is accelerating capital expenditure across the fleet. The orderbook of more than 500 dual-fuel ships favors lines with robust balance sheets and long-term charter portfolios. Smaller regional carriers face strategic choices between niche specialization and partnership with larger alliances to satisfy shippers' decarbonization goals. Consequently, merger and acquisition activity is likely to continue, particularly where integrated logistics capabilities align with port ownership.

Container Shipping Industry Leaders\* MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company

\* A.P. Moller – Maersk

\* CMA CGM

\* COSCO Shipping Lines

\* Hapag-Lloyd

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

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### ### Scope Methodology P Space

This market covers the value of ocean container shipping services where cargo is moved in standardized containers on global trade lanes, and revenue is counted for the transport service provided to shippers.

Scope exclusions: It does not include bulk or tanker shipping, inland-only trucking or rail movements, port terminal handling charges, or container manufacturing.

### ### Segmentation Container

\* By Container Size\* 20-Foot (TEU)

\* 40-Foot (FEU)

\* Others

\* By Container Type\* General

\* Reefer

\* By Service\* Full-Container-Load (FCL)

\* Less-Than-Container-Load (LCL)

\* By End-User Industry\* FMCG and Retail

\* Manufacturing and Automotive

- \* Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals
- \* Electronics and Electrical Equipment
- \* Industrial Chemicals and Raw Materials
- \* Others
- \* By Geography\* North America\* United States
- \* Canada
- \* Mexico
- \* South America\* Brazil
- \* Peru
- \* Chile
- \* Argentina
- \* Rest of South America
- \* Asia-Pacific\* India
- \* China
- \* Japan
- \* Australia
- \* South Korea
- \* South East Asia (Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Philip pines)
- \* Rest of Asia-Pacific
- \* Europe\* United Kingdom
- \* Germany
- \* France
- \* Spain
- \* Italy
- \* BENELUX (Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg)
- \* NORDICS (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden)
- \* Rest of Europe
- \* Middle East and Africa\* United Arab of Emirates
- \* Saudi Arabia
- \* South Africa
- \* Nigeria
- \* Rest of Middle East And Africa

## ## Frequently Asked Questions

### #### How big is the Container Shipping Market?

The Container Shipping Market size is expected to reach USD 123.14 billion in 2026 and grow at a CAGR of 2.92% to reach USD 142.07 billion by 2031.

### #### What is the current Container Shipping Market size?

In 2026, the Container Shipping Market size is expected to reach USD 123.14 billion.

### #### What is the expected value of the container shipping market in 2031?

The container shipping market is forecast to reach USD 142.07 billion by 2031 at a 2.92% CAGR.

### #### Which container size holds the largest share of global traffic?

The 40-foot container segment led with 50.62% share of 2025 revenue and is projected to maintain dominance through 2031.

### #### Which region is growing fastest for container lines?

Asia-Pacific is forecast to post the highest regional CAGR at 4.12% between 2026 and 2031, buoyed by intra-Asian trade expansion.

#### Why are reefer containers gaining importance?

Rising demand for temperature-controlled pharmaceuticals and perishables is driving reefer container volumes, which are set to grow at a 3.36% CAGR.

#### How are environmental regulations affecting vessel orders?

IMO energy-efficiency rules and EU carbon costs are accelerating orders for dual-fuel ships, with more than 500 such vessels on order as of late 2024.

#### What was the largest recent port acquisition?

MSC's purchase of Hutchison Ports' global terminals for EUR 22.765 billion (USD 25.12 billion) in Mar 2025 added 51 million TEU of handling capacity and marked the biggest port asset deal on record.