

6 Key Factors That Impact Your Freight Shipping Rate

By understanding the factors that affect your freight shipping rate, you can start to create a cost-effective shipping strategy and improve your bottom line. Here, we outline what variables you need to know about to get more accurate — and affordable — estimates on future shipments.



1 DELIVERY SPEED

The sooner your freight needs to be delivered, the higher your rate will be. Additionally, peak delivery times will impact your shipping rate. Having flexibility around delivery speed can significantly reduce your freight rates. So, when planning your deliveries, you'll want to optimize routes and [streamline your freight strategy](#).



2 WEIGHT AND DENSITY

Carriers typically determine costs based on the density of your shipments. The less room your shipment requires, the less it's going to cost. Using a dependable [freight class calculator](#) to determine density can help you get more accurate freight quotes and avoid unnecessary reclassification fees.

3 DISTANCE

It's important to remember that the greater the distance, the higher the cost. Regional carriers tend to serve a particular area. When goods are shipped outside that area, the original carrier will have to transfer them to another carrier — which can lead to increased shipping costs. Holding deliveries until trucks are at full capacity can help you cut [freight costs](#) and stick to your transportation budget.





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ACCESSORIALS AND FEES

Accessorials are additional services that incur extra costs during the shipping process. These fees are typically added to your freight bill after the shipment has been completed. Common types of [additional charges](#) to watch out for include:

- Residential pickup or delivery
- Fuel surcharges
- Limited access locations
- Inside delivery
- Required appointments
- Guaranteed or accelerated service
- Lift gate service

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SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTIONS

Between the e-commerce boom, driver shortages, [freight embargoes](#) and harsh weather events, you can expect supply chain disruptions and rate fluctuations from time to time. And while you may not be able to control the weather, you can at least [plan for contingencies](#).



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SEASON

While things can change quickly in the freight shipping industry, one thing remains fairly consistent: seasonal trends. Whether you're immersed in the holiday peak season or you're taking some time to reevaluate your shipping strategy in the spring, you'll want to learn how to get the best rates and achieve [freight shipping success in every season](#).

There are plenty of ways to manage your freight shipping rates and improve your bottom line, but they can look different for each business. With a third-party logistics (3PL) partner in your corner, you can count on the personalized tools, resources and consulting needed to save money on your freight shipments.

[Contact Unishippers today for help managing your freight rates.](#)

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