

WHICH MODE OF TRANSPORTATION

IS RIGHT FOR YOUR FREIGHT SHIPPING?

When it comes to deciding how to ship your freight, it's important to consider all the factors. There's a lot more to think about than just the final cost!



Read on to get the 411 on your freight shipping options — and which is best for your business.

	GROUND		AIR	OCEAN
	Less-Than-Truckload (LTL)	Full Truckload (FTL)		
Service Type	Combines freight from multiple businesses into one full truckload. Ideal if your shipment is too large for small package shipping, but you don't have enough freight to fill an entire trailer	Used to ship cargo that weighs more than 20,000 pounds or freight that can fill an entire trailer	Allows you to ship quickly and reliably to virtually anywhere — domestic or internationally — by plane	Works by packing goods into ocean shipping containers that move from port to port. Can be shipped as a Less-Than-Container Load (LCL), Full Container Load (FCL) or Break-Bulk
Ideal Shipment Type	Best for durable shipments that can be handled in transit	Ideal for high-value or fragile freight that requires less handling	Ideal for perishable goods or other items that require expedited transit times	Typically used for bulk commodities and oversized items
Price*	Most cost-effective when shipping six pallets or fewer, since you only pay for a fraction of a full trailer	Most cost-effective when shipping a high volume (more than 10 pallets) to a single destination	Typically the most expensive mode of transport	Often the most cost-effective way to ship large cargo across the globe
Speed	Fast delivery for most distances, with multiple stops in transit	Faster delivery for most distances, with no stops in transit [†]	Fastest delivery for both short and long distances	Slow transit speeds — best for freight with long lead times
Weight and Size Limitations	Generally consists of six or fewer handling units (pallets, crates, etc.) and weighs between 150 and 15,000 pounds	Ideal for larger shipments that exceed LTL freight limits, typically weighing over 20,000 pounds	Size and weight requirements due to limited cargo space and other regulations — not ideal for oversized items	Very few weight and size restrictions — best for heavy or oversized shipments
Coverage	Coverage in the U.S., Mexico and Canada, with possible limitations on routes with low volume	Extensive coverage in the U.S., Mexico and Canada	Accessible to most global locations with airport infrastructure	Extensive coverage around the world — most common for international trade



^{*} Freight pricing incorporates many factors, including distance, delivery timeframe, shipping volume and other factors. Consult Unishippers for complete pricing transparency before shipping.