

TRANSPORTATION MODE Comparison

Explore the pros and cons of the most popular shipping modes and see how they stack up against each other across a variety of key determining factors.

| |  COST |  SPEED |  CAPACITY |  REACH |  SHIPMENT VISIBILITY |  RELIABILITY |  ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT |
|--------------|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| TRUCK |  Cost effective for short distances |  Quick delivery for short to medium distances |  Limited by truck size and weight restrictions |  Extensive market reach, even to remote areas |  Equipped with GPS tracking devices |  Typically reliable, barring any major traffic, construction or weather delays |  Less fuel efficient than other modes |
| RAIL |  One of the most cost effective modes, especially for large volumes/long distances |  Comparable speed to truck |  Able to transport large volumes at one time |  Reaches major markets coast to coast, but can require coordination with trucks for first and last mile |  GPS tracking and ID tags on all rail cars to provide high level of visibility |  Shipments can be expected to arrive within a pre-determined timeframe |  Environmentally responsible and fuel efficient |
| WATER |  One of the least expensive shipping modes |  Slow transit time |  High carrying capacity with few size and weight restrictions |  While extensive coverage is available across the U.S., this mode requires access to navigable waterways |  Can be difficult to track shipment's location while in transit |  Can be difficult to predict and control transit times; congestion or unplanned outages by an aging infrastructure can cause delays |  Environmentally responsible and fuel efficient |
| AIR |  Typically the most expensive shipping mode |  Fastest shipping mode, especially for long distances |  Low carrying capacity |  Accessible to most locations, but an airport infrastructure is required and truck pick up and delivery is typically needed |  Easy to track your shipment while in transit |  Easily impacted by inclement weather and susceptible to delays |  One of the most fuel-intensive modes |