6 Transport and logistics companies that cut global shipping costs in 2025

Description

Global trade in 2025 is defined by both opportunity and challenge as businesses work to bring down rising shipping costs. More than 80 percent of international trade still moves across the seas, yet many companies struggle to manage the complexity of global logistics.

Frequent supply chain disruptions now create costly delays that can affect entire networks. At the same time, stricter regulations on emissions, waste, and fuel efficiency add new layers of pressure for shipping providers. Companies that fail to adapt risk higher expenses and significant penalties.

Despite these obstacles, the industry is finding new ways to stay resilient. In this article, we highlight six transport and logistics companies that are redefining cost efficiency in 2025. Their approaches combine technology, sustainability, and smart operations to give businesses a competitive edge in an increasingly complex global market.

1. Ship4wd

ZIM Integrated Shipping Services Ltd launched Ship4wd in 2021, and it quickly became a powerhouse in transport and logistics. This digital freight forwarding platform helps small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) that struggle to compete with bigger companies in global shipping.

Ship4wd stands out because it serves businesses that rarely get representation in international freight. The platformâ??s all-in-one digital dashboard makes the entire shipping process easier â?? from quoting and booking to tracking and delivery.

Users can book ocean freight rates and container space up to 45 days ahead, just like booking a flight. This feature helps businesses that deal with seasonal demand changes or those who want predictable shipping costs for their budget.

Ship4wdâ??s shipping options fit different business needs:

- **FCL shipping (Full Container Load)** â?? Perfect for bigger volumes with faster transit times and guaranteed container space, plus price locks up to 45 days
- **LCL Shipping (Less than Container Load)** â?? Great for smaller shipments that save money while guaranteeing space and locking prices up to 14 days ahead
- **Air Freight** â?? Best for time-sensitive deliveries through partnerships with top service providers

The platform goes beyond simple shipping services with solutions that used to require multiple vendors. Their digital customs clearance lets businesses submit an Importer Security Filing and sign Power of Attorney documents online while getting up-to-the-minute updates through customs release. Businesses worried about cargo safety can get insurance policies

starting at $20.00 per shipment, with $2 million coverage and quick claims processing.

Ship4wdâ??s pre-shipment inspections verify manufacturing quality at supplier locations for a fixed price without hidden fees. This service helps businesses that source products internationally and want quality checks before shipment.

2. DHL Global Forwarding

DHL Global Forwardingâ??s logistics experience spans more than two centuries, dating back to 1815. This freight giant has become the lifeblood of the global shipping industry. As part of Deutsche Post DHL Group, they support over 167,000 customers daily through their network of 30,000+ expert employees worldwide.

Their operations reach an impressive scale. They move more than 2.1 million tons of air freight and 3.1 million TEUs (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units) of ocean freight annually.

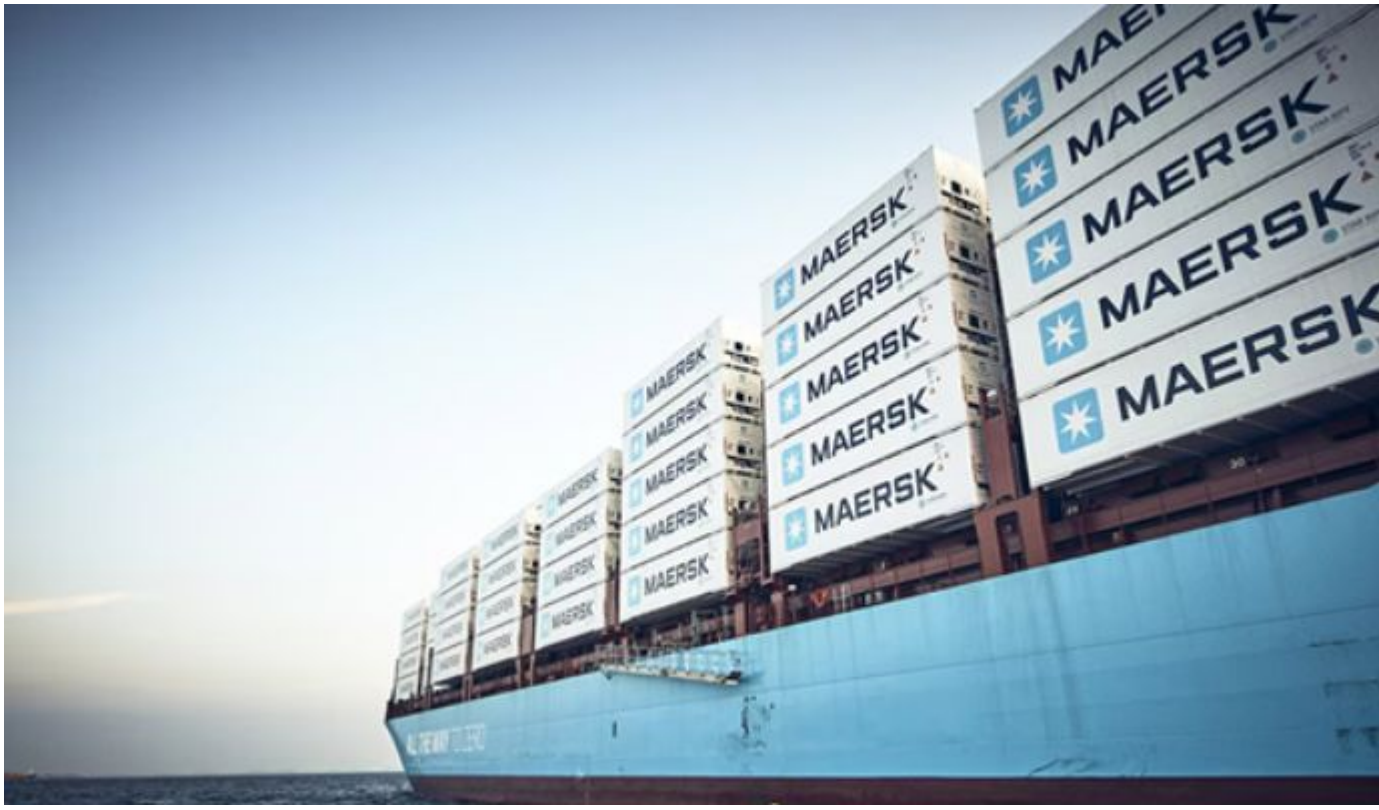
DHLâ??s detailed service portfolio covers almost every international shipping need. Their air freight services deliver quick and reliable transportation, particularly valuable for time-sensitive shipments. The ocean freight division gives clients cost-efficient options with various consolidation choices and multiple equipment types.

Strong operational efficiency drives DHLâ??s cost reduction strategy. The company launched a Global Target Operating Model (GTOM) to improve productivity by 30%. They achieved this through increased standardization, automation, and better service center use. Their â??One File / One Operatorâ?• model creates better visibility and accountability, which substantially improves customer experience and operations.

Sustainability remains a vital focus area for DHL Global Forwarding. Their GoGreen solutions help businesses reduce emissions while streamlining international logistics operations. These initiatives include:

- Carbon transparency tools that provide insights for green optimization
- Sustainable alternatives across all transport modes
- Tailor-made recommendations for improving supply chain carbon footprints
- Options to reduce main haul carbon emissions through sustainable marine and aviation fuels

3. Maersk



Maersk, a global shipping and logistics powerhouse, pioneers the reduction of international shipping costs through state-of-the-art solutions and strategic adaptability. The company launched its new global Innovation Center in May 2023.

The Innovation Center takes a well-laid-out approach to boost both business operations and customer experience. It focuses on supply chain transparency, solutions for supply chain resilience, and predictive data analytics to optimize distribution networks.

Maerskâ??s detailed service portfolio goes beyond traditional ocean shipping. Their integrated solutions cover:

- Ocean Transport â?? Moving approximately 12 million containers annually to every corner of the globe
- Inland Transport â?? Optimizing global supply chains with FCL, LTL, and FTL solutions

- Air Freight â?? Reducing costs for urgent or time-critical cargo through Global Air Freight solutions
- Maersk Ground Freight â?? Providing seamless non-containerized transportation through integrated trucking services

Maersk stands out in the competitive transport and logistics landscape with its resilient logistics solutions. These give businesses complete visibility to spot and alleviate risks, boost efficiency, and improve agility for stronger supply chains. Their wide network of international carriers and strategic collaborations, combined with state-of-the-art technology and deep expertise in shipping logistics, makes them ideal partners to help brands pursue economical last-mile strategies.

Maersk helps customers navigate the complex shipping environment with shifting tariffs and changing global demand patterns in 2025. Their innovative approach to logistics management, paired with strategic cost avoidance and digital solutions, shows why they rank among the transport and logistics companies that best cut global shipping costs this year.

4. ShipBob

ShipBob has emerged as a standout player in logistics and transportation. Their tech-savvy fulfillment solutions help e-commerce businesses reduce global shipping costs. The supply chain platform caters to SMB and Mid-Market merchants, and their results speak volumes: 80% of their ecommerce brand clients grew their revenue in 2024.

The companyâ??s network spans over 60 fulfillment centers across the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Europe, and Australia. This extensive reach lets businesses

place inventory close to their customers. Strategic inventory placement brings two major benefits: quicker deliveries and lower shipping costs.

Customer success stories prove this approach works well. To name just one example, Our Place saved USD 1.50 million by using ShipBobâ??s fulfillment network. They also cut their fulfillment and shipping times by half, going from 5â??6 days to just 2.5 days. Semaine Healthâ??s story shows similar success, reducing shipping times from 5.2 days to about 3.6 days after spreading inventory across four ShipBob U.S. fulfillment centers.

ShipBobâ??s bulk shipping discount deals add another layer of cost savings. Their high order volume lets them negotiate better rates with major carriers like UPS, USPS, FedEx, and DHL. These savings go directly to their merchants. Maria Osorio, Oxford Healthspanâ??s Logistics and Operations Director, puts it simply: â??By partnering with ShipBob, we get better quality fulfillment and shipping for a better price.â?•

Prymalâ??s founder, Courtney Lee, shares impressive results: â??We are reaching USD 160000.00 a month in revenue â?? thatâ??s 300% growth. Weâ??re also saving USD 8000.00 per month in fulfillment costs.â?• These improvements show how ShipBobâ??s approach helps businesses cut shipping costs while maintaining service quality.

5. Kuehne + Nagel

Kuehne+Nagel stands as one of the worldâ??s leading logistics providers in 2025. The company employs over 82,000 people at nearly 1,300 locations in almost 100 countries. As the global leader in air and sea logistics, they serve about 400,000 customers worldwide through their extensive network that offers complete supply chain solutions.

The company showed its strength during a tough market in the first half of 2025. Their net turnover grew by 8% compared to last year, reaching CHF 12.5 billion. This figure jumps to 12% when adjusted for foreign exchange effects. The companyâ??s EBIT reached CHF 744 million with earnings of CHF 555 million. Businesses looking for economical shipping solutions will appreciate that Kuehne+Nagel grew faster than the market in both Sea and Air Logistics, with volume increases of 2% and 7%.

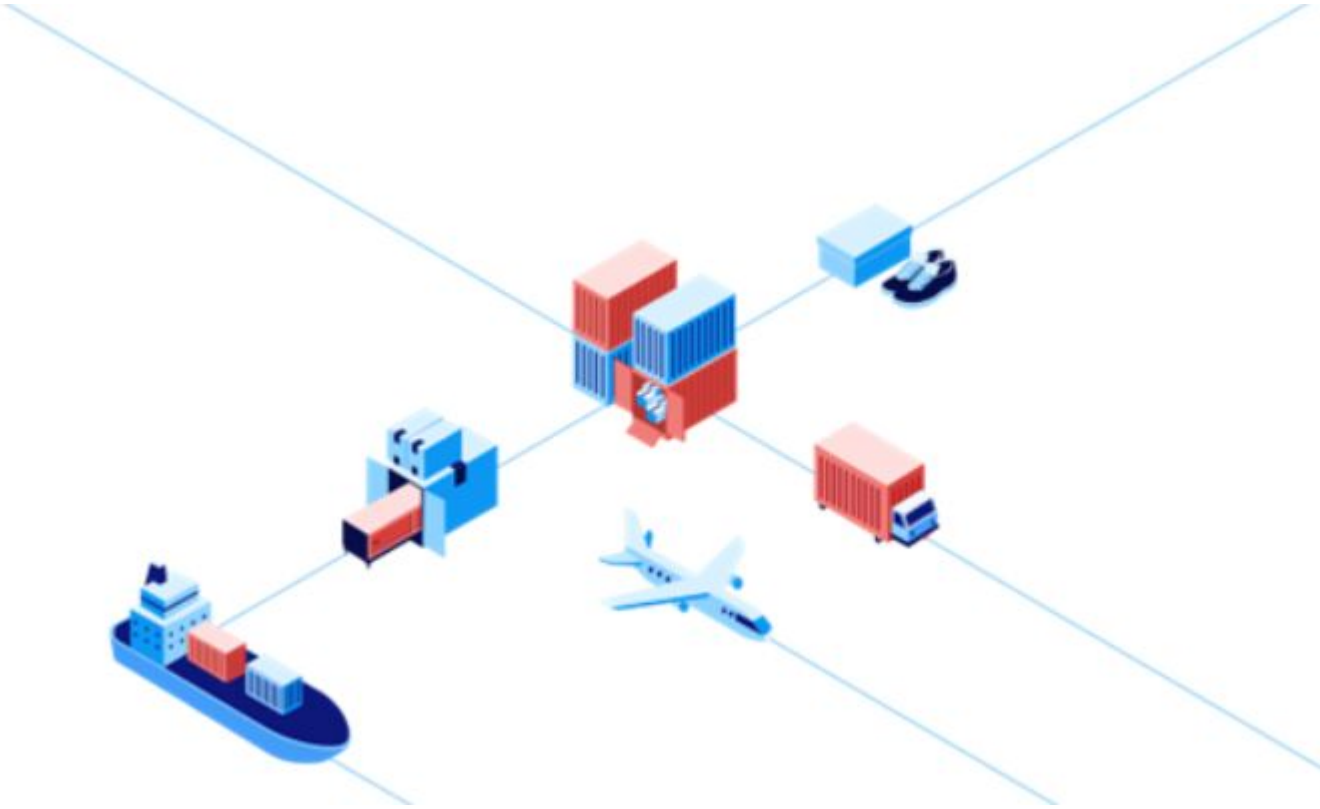
CEO Stefan Paul highlighted their success: â??The push of our strategic sales initiatives is proving to be highly effective. In Sea Logistics, we increased volumes by 2%, and in Air Logistics by 7% â?? thatâ??s well above overall market growth.â?•

The company has responded to economic challenges by putting money-saving measures in place that help customers find affordable shipping options. Their focus on simplified processes helped cut costs per unit by 12% in Sea Logistics and 14% in Air Logistics.

Kuehne+Nagelâ??s myKN platform gives customers full control of their shipments. This user-friendly digital tool lets users:

- Generate competitive freight quotes and instant bookings from any device
- Track shipments in real-time
- Measure the environmental impact of shipments and explore offset options
- Calculate carbon emissions for individual shipments
- Simulate the impact of modal shifts and routing changes

6. Zencargo



Zencargo started in 2017 and quickly became a leading digital freight forwarder that helps businesses turn their supply chains into a competitive edge. Childhood friends Alex Hersham and Richard Fattal started the company. They saw how complex logistics had become and created a technology solution to fix these problems.

The company stands out with its award-winning digital platform. It gathers data from the entire supply chain networkâ??manufacturers, carriers, and internal teams. Businesses can see their products at the SKU level, check performance metrics, and spot issues before they become serious problems.

Zencargo has found new routing options to deal with possible port issues. They now ship through the U.S. West Coast and use rail networks. They keep their supply chains running smoothly by talking openly with customers and working closely with carriers.

Customers share their success stories with Zencargo:

- Pangaia says Zencargo gives them better order visibility and control. Bookings are simpler, ETAs are current, and operations run smoother
- Harrods mentions that Zencargo always looks for ways to make their network better
- Sephora UK values Zencargoâ??s quick responses and flexibility, especially for ex-works shipments and retail deliveries

Zencargo creates value through four main areas:

1. Complete supply chain network visibility
2. A flexible logistics network that balances cost, speed, and adaptability
3. Evidence-based decisions that give teams the right information
4. Personal service from dedicated success teams

Looking Ahead in Global Logistics

The transport and logistics industry in 2025 is proving that efficiency and innovation can go hand in hand. Companies that invest in technology, sustainability, and smarter supply chain strategies are helping businesses cut costs while keeping global trade moving.

For business leaders, choosing the right logistics partner is no longer just about moving goods from one point to another. It is about finding solutions that reduce risks, protect margins, and create opportunities for growth in a competitive marketplace.

Those who align with forward-thinking logistics companies will be better positioned to navigate disruptions and seize new opportunities in the evolving world of global trade.

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