

TRANSPORTATION MODES at a glance

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

MODES	 COST	 SPEED	 CAPACITY	 REACH	 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	✗ 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 predetermined timeframe	✓ Environmentally responsible and fuel efficient
 SHIP	✓ 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 water	✗ 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 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 p/up and delivery is needed	✓ Easy to track your shipment while in transit	✗ Easily impacted by weather and susceptible to delays	✗ One of the most fuel intensive modes