Value of Air Cargo

Special Cargo

Air cargo provides speed, agility, and care in the handling of Special Cargo, which is why this is the preferred means of transport for these items. The vast variety of commodities, including fresh fruit and vegetables, a new smartphone, or your COVID-19 vaccine, are brought safely to you thanks to air cargo.

Special Cargo by weight transported in 2021

- **35%** Dangerous Goods
- **54%** Perishables
- **9%** Pharmaceuticals
- **2%** Live animals

- **12%** of perishables are fruit and vegetables
- **11B** doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered
- **27%** of dangerous goods are lithium batteries

Top three regional trade lanes by type/volume

- N. America
- Europe
- Asia Pacific
- Central & S. America
- Africa
- Middle East & South Asia

Special cargo and the SDGs

Air cargo is a driving force towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The industry preserves biodiversity and provides vital connectivity between producers and markets, which enables millions of people to access fresh food and supports global health and well-being.

Did you know?

In 2022, four airlines alone transported over 36,000 tonnes of flowers for Valentine’s Day

IATA programs supporting Special Cargo

For more information

www.iata.org/cargo

March 2022

Sources: CargoIS, ourworldindata