



Checklist

Tips for budgeting international shipping expenses

Learn more





Effective budgeting and forecasting for international shipping can help you control costs and ensure reliable deliveries. This checklist offers clear tips to manage your shipping expenses and avoid unexpected costs. Let's make international shipping simpler and more cost-efficient!

COURIER AND SHIPPING METHOD COST MANAGEMENT

Research international shipping couriers and methods

- **Compare different couriers** for international shipping and **negotiate better rates** based on your analysed performance data.
- **Check for special rates or discounts** (volume-based) on international shipping.
- **Assess the reliability and speed** of each courier's services.
- Determine if your customers prefer **speed over cost**, or vice versa.
- Align **shipping methods** with **customer expectations** and **product value**.

SHIPPING COSTS AND FINANCIAL PLANNING

Understand shipping costs and fees

- **Identify all costs:** base shipping rates, surcharges, and additional fees (e.g., fuel surcharges, remote area surcharges).
- Be aware of **customs duties** and **taxes** in the destination country.

Forecast return costs

- **Forecast return shipping costs** based on your expected sales, current return rate, and average return shipping cost per parcel.
- Consider offering a **cost-effective and localised returns policy**, and update your website with your new policy.

Plan for currency exchange rates

- **Monitor exchange rates** that affect shipping costs.
- Factor in **potential currency fluctuations**.

Consider shipping zones

- Understand how **shipping zones** impact pricing.
- **Negotiate rates** for frequently shipped zones.
- Consider **strategic warehouse locations** to minimise shipping zone distances.

OPERATIONAL COST EFFICIENCY AND PLANNING

Anticipate operational adjustments

- **Allow extra processing time** for your team to handle the additional steps involved in international shipments.
- **Adjust your workflow** to accommodate international shipping complexities.
- **Ensure staff are trained** on international shipping requirements.



Use technology to cut costs

- **Use shipping software** to automate cost calculations and optimise courier selection.
- **Implement tracking solutions** to monitor shipments in real-time.
- **Set up automation for weight classes** to prevent getting surcharges for corrections.

Prepare for seasonal variations

- **Account for peak seasons** when shipping costs may rise.
- **Adjust your budget** to reflect seasonal shipping trends.
- Consider using **alternative couriers during peak seasons** to manage costs.

PACKAGING COSTS AND INSURANCE

Optimise packaging

- **Use the smallest packaging possible** without compromising the safety of the items.
- Consider **eco-friendly packaging solutions** to reduce waste, costs, and appeal to environmentally conscious customers.
- **Consolidate shipments where feasible** to lower costs per unit.

Calculate dimensional weight (volumetric weight)

- **Measure the package** dimensions and weight.
- **Use the courier's dimensional weight formula** to calculate the shipping cost.

Evaluate insurance options

- **Assess whether shipping insurance is necessary** based on the value and risk level of your shipments.
- **Compare insurance options** provided by couriers versus third-party providers.
- **Include insurance costs** in your overall shipping budget.

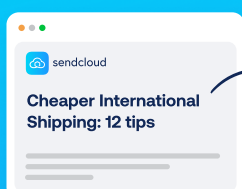
CUSTOMER COMMUNICATION AND SHIPPING INSIGHTS

Customer communication and expectations

- **Clearly communicate shipping costs and delivery times** to customers upfront.
- **Prepare your customer support** for an increase in WISMO requests due to longer transit times for international shipments.
- **Consider offering tracking and notifications** to enhance satisfaction.

Stay informed about global shipping trends

- **Keep an eye on international trade regulations** and changes in shipping laws.
- **Monitor geopolitical events** that could impact shipping routes and costs.
- **Stay updated with courier announcements and global shipping news** to anticipate changes in pricing or availability.



Learn more

Ready to optimise your shipping budget?

Discover 12 top tips for cheaper international shipping in our blog!

[Read the blog](#)

[Find out how Sendcloud can help](#)