

Case Study:

OUTBACK TOYS

OUTBACK TOYS®
Your Best Source for Farm Toys.

Company

Outback Toys, LLC

Industry

Toys and Collectables

ERP

NetSuite

Website

www.outbacktoys.com

Overview

Founded in Lititz, Pennsylvania in the mid-1990s, Outback Toys have been capturing the hearts of inquisitive children and committed collectors for nearly 30 years with its extensive selection of farm and construction toys and memorabilia from renowned brands such as Case IH, John Deere, Caterpillar, Ford New Holland, and more. Originally a division of Binkley & Hurst, an agricultural parts service and sales provider, Outback Toys emerged almost serendipitously. Customers visiting for agricultural parts were often directed "out back" to check out the growing selection of toys and Outback Toys was born.

Today, the family-owned and operated company oversees a brick-and-mortar retail location with an integrated warehouse and a thriving eCommerce business. Approximately 90% of Outback's business is order fulfillment and over 30% of that volume happens in the last six weeks of the year.

Benefits & Key Outcomes



Scales seamlessly to support a 300% increase in seasonal volume



Easy to use for new and temporary workers



Automated manual tasks



Removed the need to jump from multiple carrier portals to get rates

Challenge

Outback Toys faced significant challenges in expanding its shipping operations to keep pace with seasonal demand. The company's existing shipping solution was not scalable and was restricted to a computer at a pack station, resulting in inefficiencies and lost business opportunities during periods of peak demand. "We struggled to ramp up to meet seasonal demand so having a solution that allowed us to expand when our order volume expanded was crucial," said Linford Martin, Operations Manager at Outback Toys. Historically, the team would have to restrict order processing and labeling of packages to full-time employees rather than have seasonal staff work on those tasks as it was a complex process that required internal knowledge and attention to detail.

Shipping collectibles added a layer of complexity because Outback Toys uses cartons with smaller inner dimensions for added protection and it needed an agile shipping solution that would automate the carton selection process.

In addition to scalability challenges, Outback Toys struggled to accurately project shipping costs because it could not factor in dimensional weight. As a result, the company had to estimate shipping costs based on weight alone which was not a viable, long-term option based on how carriers charge. Its previous system also didn't support rate shopping in the shopping cart and international shipping and related documentation, in particular, was costly and cumbersome. Difficulty onboarding seasonal workers, restrictive user licenses, and integration issues with NetSuite and Outback Toys' eCommerce solution further hampered the team's efficiency.

Solution

After implementing ShipHawk, Outback Toys accommodated a 300% increase in seasonal order volume and kept all sales channels open for the first time in the company's history. "With ShipHawk, we were able to set up additional processing stations to support our seasonal packing line. It also allows us to use temporary labor and not have our customers experience any difference in service in terms of accuracy," said Martin.

"The implementation process was exceptional from our standpoint. From the moment our team started the implementation process, the ShipHawk team was right there to support us," said Martin.

Another benefit has been the continued partnership between Outback Toys and ShipHawk. "We've rarely had problems but in the logistics and fulfillment industry, when something does go sideways, everything feels like an emergency just because of deadlines and customer expectations. The responsiveness of ShipHawk support has been something that has helped us throughout the process," said Martin.



““ This year, because of the ease of use of ShipHawk, we had seasonal employees processing orders with the same accuracy that we would have experienced with full-time associates.

Linford Martin,
Operations Manager at Outback Toys