



Abu Dhabi Ports opens Fujairah Terminals after Dh1bn expansion

An expanded container terminal at Fujairah was inaugurated on Sunday after an investment of Dh1 billion (\$272m). A number of new structures have been added at the terminal operated by Abu Dhabi Ports to boost its cargo-handling capacity and accommodate larger vessels, according to officials. The completion of the expansion works, which began three years ago, will increase the terminal's general cargo throughput to 1.3 million tonnes and container capacity to 720,000 twenty-foot equivalent units, or TEUs. The size of the container terminal has been expanded to 110,000 square metres, with a further 25,000-square-metre multipurpose area also added to handle general cargo and roll-on, roll-off, or Ro-Ro, items, according to state news agency Wam. The work also involved extending the quay wall from 760 metres to 1,000 metres while the approach was deepened from 12 metres to 15 metres to allow the port to handle larger vessels. Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al Sharqi, Crown Prince of Fujairah, opened the expanded port terminal. Fujairah Port is strategically important. It is located 70 nautical miles from the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway carrying a fifth of the world's traded oil.

Dubai Non-Oil Foreign Trade Grows 10% to \$96.4Bn

Dubai's non-oil foreign trade grew by 10 percent in Q1 2021, amounting to AED354.4 billion (\$96.4 billion), compared to AED323 billion (\$87.9 billion) during the same period in 2020. This growth underscores the Emirate's ability to achieve swift economic recovery from the challenges posed by the global economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Exports grew 25 percent to AED50.5 billion (\$13.7 billion), representing a volume of five million tons, a rise of 20 percent. Imports accounted for AED204.8 billion (\$55.7 billion), growing nine percent. The value of re-exports touched AED99 billion (\$26.9 billion), growing 5.5 percent. "This remarkable growth reflects our foreign trade sector's impressive resilience and its ability to rebound and grow in the face of major international crises," said Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai. This growth shows the extent to which Dubai has benefited from its strong investments in information technology and digitization, which enabled it to move forward with its trade with the world, even during the pandemic, he added.

Cargo ships skip Singapore as congestion at Chinese ports cause delays

Delays from congestion at southern Chinese ports triggered by fresh Covid-19 outbreaks are rippling through global supply chains, threatening to inflate costs and exacerbate disruptions. A cargo vessel operated by Cosco Shipping Lines Co will skip a scheduled port stop in Singapore this month because of delays in China, according to alliance partner Ocean Network Express Holdings. One of CMA CGM's vessels heading to China in July will also not call at the Southeast Asia trans-shipment hub. "The delays have already resulted in pressurizing soaring shipping prices within China due to a lack of containers and increased export demand," said Josh Brazil, vice president of marketing at project44, a supply-chain intelligence firm. "These high shipping costs are just one factor that may contribute to an additional looming threat to global inflation." A virus outbreak at Yantian in Shenzhen has already inflated spot freight rates globally, with Drewry's World Container Index increasing 10% in the past three weeks, said Simon Heaney, senior manager of container research at Drewry Shipping Consultants Ltd. "It feels inevitable that rates will climb higher as we head into the third-quarter peak season," he said.

China unveils plan to develop Hainan Island as a major south-western hub port

Beijing has announced that the Hainan Free Trade Port Law, part of its efforts to develop a globally influential free trade port in Hainan province, was adopted very recently. The legislation, which takes effect immediately, provides China with a legal guarantee in its pursuit of building a high-quality free trade port on Hainan Island. Meanwhile, Yangpu port in Hainan Island will be developed into an international container hub port in the southernmost part of China, under the country's 14th five-year plan, "to strengthen overseas logistics links". Plans for Hainan were set in motion in June last year, when China's economic planning agency, the National Development and Reform Commission, released a blueprint to reinvent the island from holiday resort into a major free trade hub port. Hainan's geographical spot between China and South-east Asia, positions its logistics and shipping industries well for growth. Annually, Yangpu, Hainan's largest port, can handle around 1.8m teu. In October, the first overseas container shipping service connecting to Hainan was launched, when Cosco began a bi-weekly Yangpu-South Pacific-Australia service, followed by China United Lines' service linking Yangpu with Vietnam.

Pandemic turns 'Iron Silk Road' into China-Europe trade artery

What began as a 19th century mode of transportation to deliver 21st products delivering laptops built in China to European markets on trains has evolved into a vital cargo link between the two continents. And the major disruptions to maritime and air logistics chains due to the coronavirus pandemic has only accelerated the importance of China Railway Express as a cheaper and quicker alternative to ship everything from cars to household goods from China to Europe. The railway, which first began operating roughly a decade ago, has now become the backbone of China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative. Still, cooling ties between China and Europe over Xinjiang and other issues loom heavy over the trade. Chinese logistics provider SF Holding began chartering cargo planes from Japan to carry electronics parts and household items to various destinations in China. Once the goods arrive, they are loaded onto freight trains headed to Europe on the China Railway Express. The company used to depend on outside freight operators for shipments between Japan and China. But it decided it needed its own dedicated flights with demand expected to rise.



Major container lines announce shipment suspensions worldwide

CMA CGM and Hapag-Lloyd have announced shipment suspensions in several regions across the world. The French shipping group said that all reefer shipments to Cabinda in Angola are suspended due to ongoing congestion, which causes "increasing and extremely irregular" transit times. Additionally, Hapag-Lloyd has confirmed that with immediate effect, it temporarily suspends all imports into East Malaysia ports (Kuching, Sibul, Bintulu, Kota Kinabalu, Labuan, Sandakan, Tawau) due to feeder space limitation. Moreover, the German carrier has announced it has already stopped the acceptance of wood and its allied products including charcoal in Nigeria, due to Nigeria Customs Service E11/2021/Circular No.011 referring to the suspension of export of wood and its allied products.



Unifeeder launches new service connecting UK and Ireland ports

Unifeeder has launched a new service connecting the Hubport of Southampton to the Irish Sea and the ports of Cork, Belfast and Dublin. Unifeeder believes that the new service to the Irish Sea is further expanding the company's presence in Northern Europe, and will allow them to provide an even more extensive outport coverage. The new service's port rotation is Southampton – Dublin – Belfast – Cork – Southampton. Unifeeder said that the first sailings have already been successfully completed, and added that the new product will run as a weekly fixed-weekday service.