

UAE Container Terminal Operations - Market Share Analysis, Industry Trends & Statistics, Growth Forecasts (2024 - 2029)

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Abstracts

The UAE Container Terminal Operations Market size is estimated at USD 1.67 billion in 2024, and is expected to reach USD 2.30 billion by 2029, growing at a CAGR of 6.57% during the forecast period (2024-2029).

Key Highlights

The supply chain in the maritime industry faced a series of challenges with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Port closures due to coronavirus outbreaks, port congestions, rising prices of bunker fuel, and problems with capacity utilization were plaguing the global marine port services industry for most of 2020 and 2021.

Due to the pandemic, the volume of containers transported shrank by about 0.3 percent in 2020. On the other hand, the recent spike in container freight rates turned out extremely profitable for marine port services operators, who reported record high-profit margins in 2021.

Container terminal services are complex and mainly depend upon the nature of shipment and cargo. The cargo can comprise cars, merchandise, crude oil, minerals, etc.

A different set of machinery, expertise, and manpower is required to handle and manage various types of cargo. For instance, ferry services require different types of ports for their handling. The need for more efficiency in operations at the container terminal is not desirable and can also lead to accidents. Therefore, container terminal operations should be highly efficient and flawless. Container terminal operations are the

core of the maritime industry.

The growing complexity of port operations in the United Arab Emirates has led to extensive diversification and enhancement of port infrastructure and technology. To improve productivity, the UAE ports are integrating more technological and automated solutions, such as robotics, artificial intelligence, and IoT.

With the advent of digital technology, ports have become more automated, with interconnected supply chains and limited manpower to perform operations. As a result, various investments are being made in port automation to increase port efficiency.

For example, in 2021, Abu Dhabi Ports Group and France-based CMA CGM Group invested approximately USD 153.9 million in the new Khalifa Port Terminal, intending to create a semi-automated container port throughout the construction of the GCC region.

In 2022, Middle East ports occupied four of the top five spots in the second edition of the Global Container Port Performance Index (CPPI), developed by the World Bank and S&P Global Market Intelligence.

UAE Container Terminal Operations Market Trends

Booming Crude oil segment

The UAE, being a major oil producer, has a significant presence in the crude oil segment of container terminal operations. The country has strategically positioned itself as a hub for oil trade, with its modern infrastructure and well-developed ports.

One of the key players in this segment is the Port of Fujairah, located on the east coast of the UAE. It is a major oil terminal, handling a significant portion of the country's crude oil exports. The port has dedicated facilities for the loading and unloading of crude oil, with deep-water berths capable of accommodating large tankers.

Another important player in the UAE's crude oil segment is the Port of Jebel Ali, which is one of the largest container terminals in the Middle East. While it primarily focuses on container operations, it also plays a role in the handling of crude oil. The port has dedicated facilities for the storage and transportation of oil, catering to the needs of the region's oil industry.

In terms of market dynamics, the UAE's crude oil segment is influenced by various

factors. Global oil prices, geopolitical developments, and demand-supply dynamics all play a role in shaping the market. The UAE, being a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), also participates in efforts to stabilize oil prices and ensure market stability.

The container terminal operations market in the UAE has witnessed significant growth over the years. The country's strategic location, well-developed infrastructure, and business-friendly policies have attracted major players in the oil industry. This has led to the expansion of existing terminals and the development of new ones to meet the growing demand for crude oil handling.

Increasing Maritime Trade

The United Arab Emirates is on track to dominate global maritime trade as a slew of new port infrastructure is delivered. The country has built world-class infrastructure in ports and logistics. By increasing port capacity, the UAE can now meet surging trade volumes in emerging markets.

By 2050, four of the five largest economies will comprise developing countries. These countries are China, India, Brazil, and Russia. The IMF estimates that these markets will account for 45% of global production by 2025.

Due to its strategic geographical position between East and West, the UAE is a global trading hub and an essential gateway to these emerging markets. Port investments make the UAE the third-largest re-export market in the world.

It has nine operating ports, and its flagship, Jebel Ali, is the largest container terminal between Rotterdam and Singapore. The annual container throughput of Jebel Ali Port in 2021 was about 13.7 million units.

According to the World Bank's Doing Business Report 2022, the country is the largest shipping and port player in the Middle East and North Africa and the fifth largest in the world.

The United Arab Emirates is home to several large shipowners, including branches of international shipowners. The UAE's offshore industry has weathered the storm relatively better than other parts of the world, and the region's vessel utilization rate is

higher than the global average. The United Arab Emirates continues to be an essential hub for many offshore shipowners.

UAE Container Terminal Operations Industry Overview

The United Arab Emirates container terminal operations market is relatively fragmented, with a large number of local and international players, such as Al Yasat Petroleum Operation Company Limited LLC, DP World Sukuk Limited, Aztec Facilities Management, Abu Dhabi Terminal (ADT), and CSP Abu Dhabi Terminal. The market is expected to show positive growth in the forecast period since many companies are jumping into the market.

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