

Dubai's non-oil global trade nears \$15bn in Jan

- Sunday, 17 April 2011 7:05 PM



A cargo ship is unloaded at Jebel Ali Free Zone, Dubai. (Getty Images)

Dubai's non-oil trade with the world reached record levels in January, hitting AED55bn (\$14.9bn), a senior official announced on Sunday.

Trade values saw a 28 percent increase compared to the same period last year, Ahmed Butti Ahmed, executive chairman of Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation, and director general of Dubai Customs said.

He added that Dubai Customs' statistics showed non-oil trade had grown an average of 19 percent over the last five years.

He said the figures "clearly indicates the return of the ascending growth in the emirate's external trade".

India maintained its position as the country that has the most non-oil trade with Dubai in all export, import, and re-export operations.

The total value of trade exchanges between the two countries reached AED15.8bn in January, or 29 percent of Dubai's total trade.

China and UK were second and third in imports with about AED4bn relating to China and AED3bn relating to the UK.

"System upgrading and modernization projects carried out by Dubai Customs contributed a lot in facilitating legitimate trade movement between Dubai and its partners around the world, and helped, at the same time, foster Dubai status as a major hub for transcontinental trade between West and East," Ahmed added.

Exports in January increased by 35 percent, to total more than AED6.6bn while re-exporting rose by 31 percent, he said.

Imports dominated Dubai's trade with the world in January with 63 percent of the total non-oil trade, totalling AED35bn.