



DSAA Member Snapshot | Regional Operational Overview

March 2026

Overview

Based on input gathered from DSAA members, current regional conditions are creating operational pressures across routing, scheduling, and commercial costs. While UAE ports remain fully operational, external factors are influencing efficiency, predictability, and cost structures across the supply chain.

Key Observations

1. Vessel Operations & Routing

- Adjustments to vessel routing and scheduling are impacting predictability
- Delays in berthing and export loading windows reported in certain regional ports
- Increased uncertainty in vessel planning and turnaround times

2. Freight & Commercial Pressures

- Introduction of war risk surcharges and rising freight rates
- Increased operational costs including storage, reefer plug-in, and port-related charges
- Commercial strain due to slower cargo movement and extended dwell times

3. Cargo Flow & Booking Constraints

- Slower cargo movement and reduced service frequency in certain corridors
- Containers remaining in port pending onward movement
- Reduced flexibility in booking and scheduling

Operating Context

The UAE continues to maintain stable and fully operational port and logistics infrastructure. Operators are adapting to evolving regional dynamics through routing flexibility and leveraging the UAE's integrated logistics ecosystem to maintain continuity of import and export flows.



Dubai Shipping Agents Association

جمعية وكلاء الملاحة بدبي

Industry Considerations

- Continued coordination between industry stakeholders and authorities remains essential to ensure smooth flow of trade
- Clear communication and predictability in routing and scheduling are key to maintaining operational efficiency
- Stability of global shipping corridors remains critical to sustaining cost and service reliability
- Ongoing collaboration at international level will support resilience and continuity of maritime operations

This snapshot reflects high-level industry observations intended to support constructive dialogue and does not represent official positions of authorities.