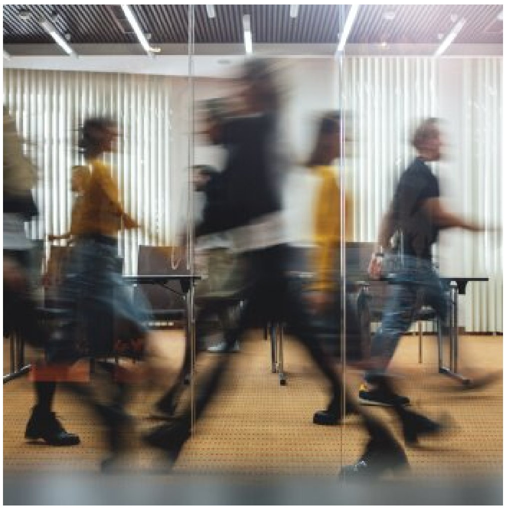

Stories that Matter | September 2026

Africa / UAE

UAE-Africa Trade Tops USD 158 Billion in 2025

UAE Africa trade has crossed USD 158 billion, signalling a structural shift as Dubai tightens its grip on African ports, trade agreements and greenfield investment.

The numbers are striking. UAE–Africa non-oil trade reached USD 158 billion in 2025, up 41.6% from 2024. Africa's share of the UAE's total non-oil trade rose to 15.5%, from 10.8% in 2019. That climb took just six years.

The broader context is equally significant. UAE government data show the country's total non-oil foreign trade hit AED 3.8 trillion (approx. USD 1.03 trillion) in 2025 — growth of more than 26% on the prior year. Africa is now a meaningful slice of that total, not a footnote.

Meanwhile, Financial Times fDi Markets data show UAE-based entities have announced more than USD 168 billion in greenfield projects across Africa since 2017. Those projects span energy, technology, infrastructure, logistics and mining. Much of the capital has yet to be deployed, but the pipeline is deep, and the intent is clear.

Source: Further Africa