

 **THE PORT OF  
LONG BEACH** NEWS RELEASE

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION \* 925 HARBOR PLAZA \* P.O. BOX 570 \* LONG BEACH CA 90801

**CONTAINER VOLUME OFF 11% IN FEBRUARY  
“Same” Terminals Report Increases****March 19, 2003**

Shipping terminals at the Port of Long Beach handled the equivalent of 322,606 twenty-foot-long container cargo units in February, a decline of 11.1 percent from February 2002.

Slowed by the Feb. 1 Chinese New Year shutdown in Asia, inbound container cargo traffic fell 21.5 percent to the equivalent of 158,863 twenty-foot-long container units, compared with higher-than-usual numbers for the same period a year ago. Last year's Chinese New Year was on Feb. 13. With a two-week lag between when ships leave Asia and when they arrive in Long Beach, last year's Chinese New Year boosted inbound shipments in February but reduced traffic in March.

This February, outbound container cargo fell 18.8 percent to 67,645 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), compared with February 2002. With the weakness in exports, the number of empty containers shipped through the port jumped 24.2 percent to 96,098 TEUs. Most of the empties were headed overseas.

Factoring out the February 2002 totals of Maersk Sealand (which stopped calling in Long Beach in August), the port's "same" terminals reported a 15 percent increase in overall container volume in February but largely because of gains in shipments of empty containers. The number of inbound containers fell 2.9 percent in February. Exports rose 8.1 percent. Empties climbed 77.3 percent.

The Port of Long Beach is one of the world's busiest container cargo seaports, a leading gateway between the U.S. and Asia. About \$95 billion in trade moved through the port in 2002. General cargo is shipped in steel containers of various sizes. The standard measure for container cargo is the twenty-foot-long container or the twenty-foot-equivalent unit (TEU).

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