

 **THE PORT OF  
LONG BEACH** NEWS RELEASE

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**PORT TOPS 4.5 MILLION TEUs  
Second-Best Container Total in Port History**

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Shipping terminals at the Port of Long Beach handled the equivalent of 4,526,365 twenty-foot-long container units in 2002, an increase of 1.4 percent over the 2001 and the second-best total in port history.

“Overall cargo growth was strong in 2002, and we expect the growth to continue in 2003,” said port Executive Director Richard D. Steinke.

For the year, inbound container cargo climbed 1.3 percent. The port’s imports include such retail goods as consumer electronics, toys, clothing, shoes and household products. Outbound container cargo dropped 10.2 percent. The port’s leading exports include factory machinery and raw materials. With the imbalance in trade, the number of empty containers, nearly all headed back overseas to be re-filled with merchandise, jumped 11.9 percent.

The port completed the year in December with container cargo volume equal to December 2001, although after factoring out the departure of a leading shipping line, the remaining terminals showed major gains.

Still recovering from October’s lockout of longshoremen, the port’s shipping terminals moved a total of 361,962 twenty-foot-equivalent units (TEUs) in December, in increase of 0.7 percent over December 2001’s total. Imports slipped 2.8 percent to 186,243 TEUs. Exports dropped 23.2 percent to 64,262 TEUs. With the terminals clearing their yards of a backlog of empty containers, empties increased 32.2 percent to 111,457 TEUs.

Without the December 2001 totals of Maersk Sealand (which stopped calling in Long Beach in August), the port’s “same terminals” reported a 34.3 percent jump in overall container volume in December. Their imports climbed 30.5 percent. Exports were up 4 percent. Empties increased 71.4 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). More information is available at [www.polb.com](http://www.polb.com).

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