

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BOTH INCREASE IN APRIL

LONG BEACH, Calif., May 15, 2002 – Import and export container cargo climbed in April as the total number of cargo containers shipped through the Port of Long Beach rose to 410,200 container units, an 11.9 percent increase over April 2001.

The percentage change in April continued the erratic pattern of the past seven months during which the port's monthly percentage change has been up and down. March was a down month; April was an up month.

Amid signs of an upturn in the U.S. economy, shipping terminals at the port reported that their inbound container cargo in April climbed 12.5 percent to the equivalent of 227,953 twenty-long container units. The port's leading imports include Asian-made clothing, shoes, toys and consumer electronics.

The number of loaded outbound containers jumped 14.8 percent to 87,961 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in April. It was the third consecutive month that exports have shown a percentage gain against last year's export total. The dollar has been trading lower against foreign currencies in recent months, making U.S. exports less expensive overseas. The leading exports shipped through Long Beach include factory equipment and raw materials such as plastics, chemicals and recycled metal and paper.

The number of empty containers climbed by nearly 8 percent to 94,286 TEUs. Nearly all of the empty containers are returned overseas to be re-filled with products that are then shipped back to the United States.

The Port of Long Beach is one of the world's busiest container cargo seaports, a leading gateway between the U.S. and Asia. Nearly \$95 billion in trade moved through the port last year. 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.

Port of Long Beach

Container Trade (TEUs*)

	LOADED		TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Inbound	Outbound	LOADED	EMPTIES	CONTAINERS
Apr-02	227,953	87,960	315,913	94,287	410,200
Apr-01	202,574	76,625	279,199	87,336	366,535
% change	12.5%	14.8%	13.1%	8.0%	11.9%
Jan-02	180,528	70,944	251,472	93,173	344,645
Feb-02	202,276	83,333	285,609	77,374	362,983

Mar-02	171,874	87,845	259,719	83,887	343,606
Apr-02	227,953	87,960	315,913	94,287	410,200
Jan '01-Apr '02	782,631	330,082	1,112,713	348,721	1,461,434
Jan.'00-Apr '01	748,073	313,567	1,061,640	331,327	1,392,967
% change	4.6%	5.3%	4.8%	5.2%	4.9%

**TEUs: 20-foot equivalent units or 20-foot-long cargo container*

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