

EXPORT TRADE INCREASES FOR SECOND-STRAIGHT MONTH

LONG BEACH, Calif., April 24, 2002 – With exports climbing for a second-consecutive month and imports slowed by the Chinese New Year, the number of cargo containers shipped through the Port of Long Beach dipped to more than 343,606 twenty-foot-long container units in March, a decline of 4.6 percent from March 2001.

“We are encouraged by the increase in exports, but it is a little early to tell how strong an import year this will be,” said Richard D. Steinke, the port’s executive director.

Shipping terminals at the port reported that the number of export containers in March rose to 87,845 twenty-foot-long equivalent units (TEUs), a 4.1 percent gain over March 2001. The February export total increased 10 percent over February 2001. The port’s back-to-back monthly percentage increases were the first for exports since August 2000. The port’s leading exports include factory equipment and raw materials such as plastics, cotton and recycled paper.

The number of import containers fell 12.1 percent to 171,874 TEUs in March. The decline followed the up-and-down pattern of the last six months. Imports had soared by 30 percent in February. The Chinese New Year on Feb. 12 shut down business in Asia during the middle of February, slowing import shipments to the port during the early part of March. The port’s leading imports include clothing, shoes, toys and consumer electronics.

The number of empty containers shipped through the port increased by 4.4 percent to 83,887 TEUs. Nearly all of the empty containers were shipped to Asia to be re-filled with cargo for 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. In 2001, \$94.7 billion in trade moved through the port. 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	EMPTYES	CONTAINERS
Mar-02	171,874	87,845	259,719	83,887	343,606
Mar-01	195,605	84,349	279,954	80,325	360,279

% change	-12.1%	4.1%	-7.2%	4.4%	-4.6%
Oct-01	238,185	82,255	320,440	114,428	434,868
Nov-01	193,861	75,879	269,740	102,345	372,085
Dec-01	191,584	83,660	275,244	84,299	359,543
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
Oct '01-Mar '02	1,178,308	483,916	1,662,224	555,506	2,217,730
Oct '00-Mar.'01	1,174,706	495,590	1,670,296	551,355	2,221,651
% change	0.3%	-2.4%	-0.5%	0.8%	-0.2%

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

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