

## CONTAINER VOLUME JUMPS 16 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY

LONG BEACH, Calif., March 25, 2002 – Amid signs of a U.S. economic recovery, cargo volume at the Port of Long Beach climbed to the equivalent of 362,983 container units in February, a 16.4 percent increase compared to February 2000, and the biggest monthly percentage increase in 20 months.

“Retailers are replenishing their inventories and American consumers continue to buy as the economic news improves,” said port Executive Director Richard D. Steinke. “We still need to be cautious, however, because the 16 percent increase is over our weakest month for all of last year. Still, this is good solid growth for this time of the year.”

Typically, the winter is the port’s slowest shipping season. But in February, both imports and exports jumped. Reflecting the resiliency in consumer spending, imported container cargo increased 30.4 percent to 202,276 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), the biggest monthly percentage increase for imports in three years. The port’s leading imports include consumer goods such as electronics, clothing, toys and shoes.

Exported container cargo climbed 10.3 percent to 83,333 TEUs, also the biggest monthly percentage export gain in 20 months. The port’s leading exports include factory equipment and raw materials such as plastics, chemicals and cotton.

With more loaded containers exported overseas, the number of empty containers shipped through the port fell 4.5 percent to 77,374 TEUs. Nearly all of the empty containers were shipped to the Far East to be refilled with cargo that is 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. More than \$95 billion in trade moved through the port in 2001. 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 about the port is available at [www.polb.com](http://www.polb.com). The TEUs going back to 1996 are at [http://www.polb.com/html/2\\_portStats/teus.html](http://www.polb.com/html/2_portStats/teus.html).

### Port of Long Beach Container Traffic (TEUs\*)

	LOADED		TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Inbound	Outbound	LOADED	EMPTIES	CONTAINERS
Feb-02	202,276	83,333	285,609	77,374	362,983
Feb-01	155,148	75,520	230,668	81,044	311,712

% change	30.4%	10.3%	23.8%	-4.5%	16.4%
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
<b>Jan-02</b>	<b>180,528</b>	<b>70,944</b>	<b>251,472</b>	<b>93,173</b>	<b>344,645</b>
<b>Oct '01- Jan '02</b>	<b>804,158</b>	<b>312,738</b>	<b>1,116,896</b>	<b>394,245</b>	<b>1,511,141</b>
Oct '00 - Jan '01	823,953	335,721	1,159,674	389,986	1,549,660
% <b>Change</b>	<b>-2.4%</b>	<b>-6.8%</b>	<b>-3.7%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>-2.5%</b>

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

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