

[CLOSE WINDOW](#)**CONTAINER CARGO DECLINES NEARLY 10 PERCENT**

Reflecting economic uncertainties, the number of cargo containers shipped through the Port of Long Beach dropped in May to the equivalent of 367,572 twenty-foot-long container units, a decrease of 9.6 percent from May 2000. The decline was the steepest monthly drop for the port in nearly nine years.

Amid a softening of the U.S. and Asian economies, both imports and exports declined sharply.

The number of inbound cargo containers in May fell to 196,120 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), a decrease of 10 percent from May 2000. The port's leading imports include consumer goods such as clothing, shoes, toys, electronics products and household items made in Asia. In the last few years, May has marked the kick-off of an extended peak shipping season, as retailers stocked up for summer sales.

The number of outbound cargo containers in May dropped to 81,108 TEUs, a 17 percent decline from last year. The port's leading exports include such raw materials as plastics and wastepaper used in Asia to produce goods that is then shipped back to the United States.

"Compared with last year we're down quite a bit," said Don Wylie, the port's managing director of maritime services. "They are reflective of the weakness in the U.S. and Asian economies. However, we expect trade to rebound later this year during our usual peak holiday season."

The port's busiest time of the year usually is the late summer and fall months - August through October -- when importers ship merchandise for back-to-school and end-of-the-year holiday sales.

Port of Long Beach Container Traffic (TEUs*)

	LOADED		TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Inbound	Outbound	LOADED	EMPTIES	CONTAINERS
May-01	198,120	81,108	277,228	90,344	367,572
May-00	218,016	97,770	315,786	90,986	406,772
% Change	-10.0%	-17.0%	-12.2%	-0.7%	-9.6%
Oct-00	235,511	88,541	324,052	108,880	432,932
Nov-00	213,065	90,756	303,821	107,076	410,897
Dec-00	180,631	79,351	259,982	91,408	351,390

Jan-01	194,746	77,073	271,819	82,622	354,441
Feb-01	155,148	75,520	230,668	81,044	311,712
Mar-01	195,605	84,349	279,954	80,325	360,279
Apr-01	202,575	76,624	279,199	87,329	366,528
May-01	196,120	81,108	277,228	90,344	367,572
Oct '00-May '01	1,573,400	653,323	2,226,723	729,035	2,955,758
Oct '99-May '00	1,552,221	710,886	2,263,107	693,914	2,957,321
% Change	1.4%	-8.1%	-1.6%	5.1%	-0.1%

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

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