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HOLIDAY SHIPMENTS BOOST SEPTEMBER CONTAINER TOTALS

With strong gains in imports offset by declines in exports, shipping terminals at the Port of Long Beach reported a slight overall increase in container cargo volume in September. Terminals moved the equivalent of 388,379 twenty-foot-long containers, a 0.2 percent increase over September 2000.

The September 2001 total of import, export and empty containers is the port's second best of the year, after August's 405,862 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). The August-through-October period is typically the port's busiest, when retailers import Asian-made goods such as clothing, toys, shoes and household merchandise for the end-of-the-year holiday season.

"The September totals indicate we're right in the middle of the peak shipping season," said port Executive Director Richard Steinke. "October typically would be one of our busiest months. But this year there is a lot more uncertainty."

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks of the World Trade Center, Pentagon and in Western Pennsylvania is likely to affect world economies. But the orders shipped through Long Beach in September were placed earlier in the summer, a month or more before the Sept. 11 attacks.

"It will be many months before the events of Sept. 11 cycle through the transportation system," said Steinke.

Prior to Sept. 11, retailers seemed to be betting on a fairly merry holiday season. The number of import containers shipped through Long Beach in September climbed to 220,204 TEUs, a 5.4 percent increase over the same month a year ago.

Exports remained weak, however, dropping 5.1 percent to 76,724 TEUs in September. It was the eleventh consecutive month that exports fell in comparison to the same month a year ago. The port's exports include factory equipment and raw materials such as plastics, chemicals and recycled wastepaper.

The number of empty containers, most headed back to Asia to be refilled with products for the U.S. market, was down 6.5 percent to 91,451 TEUs.

Port of Long Beach Container Traffic (TEUs*)

	LOADED Inbound	LOADED Outbound	TOTAL LOADED	TOTAL EMPTIES	TOTAL CONTAINERS
Sep-01	220,204	76,724	296,928	91,451	388,379

Sep-00	208,880	80,875	289,755	97,838	387,593
% change	5.4%	-5.1%	2.5%	-6.5%	0.2%
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
Jun-01	202,987	78,395	281,383	81,275	362,656
Jul-01	208,179	77,956	286,135	92,897	379,032
Aug-01	221,492	83,301	304,793	101,069	405,862
Sep-01	220,204	76,724	296,928	91,451	388,379
Jan '00-Sept '01	1,797,056	711,051	2,508,107	788,363	3,296,470
Jan '99-Sept '00	1,826,981	785,705	2,612,686	792,882	3,405,568
% Change	-1.6%	-9.5%	-4.0%	-0.6%	-3.2%

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

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