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OCTOBER CONTAINER TRADE EDGES UP; BREAKS RECORD

Boosted by a slight increase in imports, the total number of cargo containers shipped through the Port of Long Beach in October climbed to the equivalent of 434,866 twenty-foot-long container units, a 0.5 percent increase over October 2000. This October's total is the highest monthly total in the port's 90-year history.

"October is historically one of our busiest months, a time when high volumes of holiday merchandise move through the port," said port Executive Director Richard D. Steinke. "When retailers placed these orders they were expecting this year's holiday sales totals to be something close to last year's totals."

In October, the port's shipping terminals moved 238,184 twenty-equivalent units (TEUs) of inbound containers, a 1.1 percent increase from October 2000. The port's imports include such Asian-made holiday merchandise as clothing, toys, consumer electronics, shoes and household goods.

Reflecting the weakness in Asian economies, the number of export containers fell 7.1 percent to 82,255 TEUs in October. The exports include factory equipment and raw materials such as plastics, chemicals and recycled wastepaper. While the October export total is higher than the September figure, October marked the 12th consecutive month in which the export total dropped in comparison with the same month a year ago.

Because imports are edging higher while exports fall, the number of empty containers being shipped back to Asia continues to climb. The number of empties rose to 114,427 TEUs, a 5.1 percent increase from October 2000.

The impact of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 remains unclear. "The orders for the shipments in October were probably in the pipeline before Sept. 11," said Steinke. "So our outlook for the next few months, and for the world economy in general, is very uncertain."

Port of Long Beach Container Traffic (TEUs*)

	LOADED		TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Inbound	Outbound	LOADED	EMPTY	CONTAINERS
Oct-01	238,185	82,255	320,440	114,428	434,868
Oct-00	235,511	88,541	324,052	108,880	432,932
% change	1.1%	-7.1%	-1.1%	5.1%	0.4%

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
Oct-01	238,185	82,255	320,440	114,428	434,868

Jan					
'00-Oct	2,035,241	793,306	2,828,547	902,791	3,731,338
'01					
Jan					
'99-Oct	2,062,492	874,246	2,936,738	901,762	3,838,500
'00					
%					
Change	-1.3%	-9.3%	-3.7%	0.1%	-2.8%

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

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