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**Container Cargo Volume Up 6 Percent For Fiscal Year**

Paced by equally strong export and import gains, shipping terminals at the Port of Long Beach handled a record 4,564,429 20-foot-long container units in the fiscal year from October 1999 through September 2000, an increase of 6.1 percent over the 1998-99 fiscal year's record-setting total.

With Asian economies on the mend, exports climbed 7.4 percent - the biggest gain in five years. Exports increased with nearly all countries of the Far East, led by Japan, South Korea, China and Taiwan. Imports increased 7.5 percent, reflecting the continued strength in the U.S. economy. The number of empty containers, nearly all headed back to be refilled with cargo in Asia, increased 2.1 percent.

From month to month, however, cargo volumes varied greatly during the last 12 months. After a record-breaking month in August, the container cargo total fell in September to 387,593 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs). The September total is among the 10 best monthly totals ever for the port. But this September's total was a 3.8 percent decline from the September 1999 total - the top month for all of last year.

"It's not unusual for our numbers to fluctuate," said Don Wylie, the port's managing director of maritime services. "We're still having a very strong year, and the cargo continues to move smoothly."

In September, the number of import containers declined to 208,880 TEUs, a 4.7 percent drop from September 1999. September, however, was the sixth consecutive month that imports had topped the 200,000-TEU level. For all of last year, only five months topped the 200,000-TEU level. Exports declined 1.7 percent to 80,875 TEUs.

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

	LOADED		TOTAL LOADED	TOTAL EMPTIES	TOTAL CONTAINERS
	Inbound	Outbound			
<b>Sep-00</b>	<b>208,880</b>	<b>80,875</b>	<b>289,755</b>	<b>97,838</b>	<b>387,593</b>
Sep-99	219,080	82,308	301,388	101,322	402,710
<b>% Change</b>	<b>-4.7%</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>	<b>-3.9%</b>	<b>-3.4%</b>	<b>-3.8%</b>
Oct-99	204,242	84,349	288,591	107,829	396,420
Nov-99	209,444	91,201	300,645	96,656	397,301
Dec-99	185,572	86,697	272,269	92,971	365,240
Jan-00	178,672	80,091	258,763	80,380	339,143
Feb-00	177,362	81,893	259,255	75,961	335,216
Mar-00	178,489	97,871	276,360	74,404	350,764
Apr-00	200,724	91,014	291,738	74,727	366,465
May-00	218,016	97,770	315,786	90,986	406,772
Jun-00	203,004	83,305	286,309	88,586	374,895
Jul-00	224,865	86,874	311,739	98,240	409,979
Aug-00	236,969	86,012	322,981	111,760	434,741
Sep-00	208,880	80,875	289,755	97,838	387,593
<b>Oct 99-Sep 00</b>	<b>2,426,239</b>	<b>1,047,952</b>	<b>3,474,191</b>	<b>1,090,338</b>	<b>4,564,529</b>
Oct 98-Sep 99	2,257,704	975,963	3,233,667	1,068,103	4,301,770
<b>% Change</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>6.1%</b>

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