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Rebound In Exports Spurs Container Cargo Growth

With exports bouncing back and moderate import gains, container cargo volume at the Port of Long Beach climbed 3.5 percent in the first six months of the year.

"Our loaded containers, exports and imports combined, increased by 6.5 percent, which is fairly strong growth," said Don Wylie, the port's managing director of maritime services. "Overall, our total isn't as strong because we aren't seeing as many empty containers being shipped back to Asia as more and more loaded containers are going back."

The number of export containers rose by 8.6 percent in the six-month period from January through June, to the best levels since 1997 and Asia's prefinancial crisis days. The number of empty containers shipped through the port fell by 5.7 percent. Imports increased 5.6 percent, as American consumers continued to shop for clothing, shoes, toys, home furnishings and electronics products made in Asia.

In the final month of the first half of the year, shipping terminals at the port moved 203,004 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of import containers in June, a 4.4 percent increase over June 1999. It was the third-consecutive month that imports topped the 200,000-TEU mark - duplicating a feat accomplished last fall by the port during the peak holiday shipping season.

Exports climbed 5.5 percent to 83,305 TEUs in June - the sixth-straight month in which this year's exports showed improvement over the monthly export total a year ago.

The total number of containers in June increased to the equivalent of 374,895 TEUs, less than a 1 percent gain over June 1999 as gains in imports and exports were offset by a decrease in empty containers.

The number of empty containers declined nearly 12 percent to 88,586 TEUs. The number of inbound containers rose 4.4 percent to 203,003 TEUs. The number of export containers increased 5.4 percent

to 83,225 TEUs.

Port of Long Beach Container Traffic (TEUs*)

	LOADED		TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Inbound	Outbound	LOADED	EMPTIES	CONTAINERS
Jun-00	203,004	83,305	286,309	88,586	374,895
Jun-99	194,410	78,962	273,372	100,603	373,975
% Change	4.4%	5.5%	4.7%	-11.9%	0.2%
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
Jan-June '00	1,156,267	531,944	1,688,211	485,044	2,173,255
Jan-June '99	1,095,417	489,930	1,585,347	414,196	2,099,543
% Change	5.6%	8.6%	6.5%	-5.7%	3.5%

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