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CONTAINER VOLUME CLIMBS 5 PERCENT IN JUNE

Cargo container volume at the Port of Long Beach rose to the equivalent of 373,975 20-foot-long container units in June, a 5.3 percent increase over June 1998 and the port's third-busiest month ever. Amid strong import gains, the total number of containers at the port has climbed to 2,099,543 20-foot-equivalent units (TEUs) through the first six months of 1999, a 9.3 percent improvement compared with the same period a year ago.

(TEUs is a standard measure for the commonly used, 20-foot-long steel cargo containers.)

"This is still only the beginning of our peak shipping season," said Don Wylie, the port's managing director of maritime services. "The increasing imports reflect the strength in our domestic economy. Consumers are on a big buying spree. Exports are up and down, but it seems clear that the worst of the Asian financial crisis is over. There is still a bumpy road ahead for exports, however."

In June, the number of inbound containers rose 6.2 percent to 194,410 TEUs. For the first six months, imports are up 13.7 percent to 1,095,417 TEUs. Long Beach is a leading port of entry for such Asian-made consumer products as clothing, toys, shoes and electronic goods.

In June, the number of outbound containers fell by 4.4 percent to 78,962 TEUs. For the first six months, exports are down 0.5 percent to 489,930 TEUs. Leading exports include raw materials such as wastepaper, recycled metal and cotton.

Long Beach, the nation's busiest container port, is in the midst of a major expansion aimed at keeping pace with the rising volume of cargo. The port is

redeveloping a former naval complex on Terminal Island, a project that includes the construction of a 200-plus-acre shipping terminal.

"These cargo figures underscore our need to keep investing in capital improvement projects," said Wylie.

Port of Long Beach					
Container Traffic (TEUs*)					
	LOADED	TOTAL	EMPTIES	TOTAL	
	Inbound	Outbound	LOADED		CONTAINERS
Jun-99	194,410	78,962	273,372	100,603	373,975
Jun-98	183,019	82,615	265,634	89,402	355,036
% change	6.2%	-4.4%	2.9%	12.5%	5.3%
Jan-99	169,397	77,676	247,073	72,239	319,312
Feb-99	172,482	80,000	252,482	71,647	324,129
Mar-99	171,913	88,699	260,612	87,362	347,974
Apr-99	181,575	77,040	258,615	81,071	339,686
May-99	205,640	87,553	293,193	101,274	394,467
Jun-99	194,410	78,962	273,372	100,603	373,975
Year-to-date	1,095,417	489,930	1,585,347	514,196	2,099,543
98-to-date	963,493	492,508	1,456,001	465,362	1,921,363
% change	13.7%	-0.5%	6.9%	10.5%	9.3%
*TEUs: 20-foot equivalent units or 20-foot-long cargo container					

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