



## **Port Cargo Volumes Mixed in September Imports flat, exports down slightly**

October 15, 2012

Cargo container volumes at the Port of Long Beach were mixed in September, with imports up 0.7 percent and exports down 2.8 percent compared to the same period last year.

Overall cargo volumes were down 2.9 percent compared to September 2011. Port terminals handled 265,102 twenty-foot equivalent container units (TEUs) of loaded inbound cargo last month compared to 263,214 TEUs in September 2011. Export containers declined to 114,902 TEUs from 118,214 TEUs a year ago.

Empty container volumes declined 9.4 percent to 132,016 TEUs from 145,747 TEUs in September 2011. With imports exceeding exports, empty containers are sent overseas to be refilled with goods.

For the calendar year so far, overall container volumes at the Port are down 4.4 percent because of the continuing weakness in the economy, and the cutbacks in ship calls by several niche vessel operators at the end of 2011 and early 2012. Imports are down 4 percent and exports down 1.3 percent through September, compared to the same period a year ago.

The Port of Long Beach continues to invest long term. It is two years into a decade-long, \$4.5 billion program to upgrade its facilities.

For the latest monthly cargo numbers [click here](#).

For more details on the cargo numbers visit [www.polb.com/stats](http://www.polb.com/stats).

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