

[CLOSE WINDOW](#)**CONTAINER TRADE DECLINES IN JULY**

Economic sluggishness in the United States and Asia slowed container cargo shipments at the Port of Long Beach in July, with shipping terminals moving the equivalent of 379,032 twenty-foot-long container units, a decline of 7.5 percent from July 2000.

“Our July results are a continuation of a trend,” said Richard D. Steinke, the Port of Long Beach’s executive director. “They reflect the doldrums in the United States and Asian economies.”

All of the major U.S. West Coast ports have reported a slowdown in trade, with West Coast container volumes slipping 2.9 percent overall through the first six months of the year.

Although not as strong as a year ago, Long Beach’s July container import total of 208,179 twenty-foot-equivalent units (TEUs) was the highest since November 2000. July’s import totals are typically boosted by back-to-school orders of Asian-made clothing and shoes, and even some early Christmas merchandise. With weaker orders this year, July’s import total was down 7.4 percent from last July’s import total.

Hampered by a strong dollar, exports dipped to 77,956 TEUs - a 10.3 percent decline from July 2000. Long Beach’s leading exports include raw materials such as plastics, leather hides and recycled paper used by Asian manufacturers to produce merchandise for American consumers.

The demand for empty containers in Asia also declined. The number of empty containers shipped through Long Beach - nearly all of them headed back to Asia - dropped 5.4 percent to 92,897 TEUs.

Port of Long Beach Container Traffic (TEUs*)

	LOADED		TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Inbound	Outbound	LOADED	EMPTY	CONTAINERS
Jul-01	208,179	77,956	286,135	92,897	379,032
Jul-00	224,865	86,874	311,739	98,240	409,979
% Change	-7.4%	-10.3%	-8.2%	-5.4%	-7.5%
Oct-00	235,511	88,541	324,052	108,880	432,932
Nov-00	213,065	90,756	303,821	107,076	410,897
Dec-00	180,631	79,351	259,982	91,408	351,390
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
Jan '00-July '01	1,355,360	551,026	1,906,386	595,843	2,502,229
Jan '99-July '00	1,381,132	618,818	1,999,950	583,284	2,583,234
% Change	-1.9%	-11.0%	-4.7%	-2.2%	-3.1%

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

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