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**CONTAINER VOLUME  
JUMPS 14.1 PERCENT IN OCTOBER**

Strong holiday season imports and improving exports in October drove up container volume by 14.1 percent compared to the same month a year ago at the Port of Long Beach - the nation's busiest container-handling port. The equivalent of 396,420 20-foot-long container units was shipped through Long Beach - the third highest total ever for the port after only September's 402,710 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs) and August's 399,303 TEUs.

(TEUs are a standard measure for the steel cargo containers commonly used interchangeably on ships, trucks and trains.)

"Retailers are expecting a solid holiday shopping season, and Asia continues to show signs of turning around," said Wilma Powell, the port's director of trade and maritime services.

In October, the number of export containers rose to 84,349 TEUs, a 9.3 percent increase over October 1998. It was the third-consecutive month in which the number of exports increased over the previous month. There were similar gains last fall, but exports have been up and down since. Exports to South Korea, China and Malaysia have been improving, but exports have been weak with the rest of Asia.

Spurred by shipments earmarked for the holiday shopping season, the number of import containers increased to 204,242 TEUs, a 13 percent jump over October 1998.

It was the third-consecutive month that imports have topped 200,000 TEUs. Much of the holiday clothing, toys and consumer electronics headed for shopping center shelves are imported from Asia.

The number of empty containers shipped through the port jumped by 20.4 percent to 107,829 TEUs - the highest monthly number of empties ever for Long Beach. Although most of the empties were headed back to Asia to be refilled with merchandise, large shipments of newly built, imported 53-foot-

long containers were delivered for use in this country on a new train service.

<b>Port of Long Beach</b>					
<b>Container Traffic (TEUs*)</b>					
	<b>LOADED</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>EMPTIES</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>Inbound</b>	<b>Outbound</b>	<b>LOADED</b>		<b>CONTAINERS</b>
<b>Oct-99</b>	<b>204,242</b>	<b>84,349</b>	<b>288,591</b>	<b>107,829</b>	<b>396,420</b>
Oct-98	180,719	77,171	257,890	89,572	347,462
<b>% change</b>	<b>13.0%</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>11.9%</b>	<b>20.4%</b>	<b>14.1%</b>
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
Jul-99	188,586	74,155	262,741	85,220	347,961
Aug-99	214,709	80,581	295,290	104,015	399,305
Sep-99	219,080	82,308	301,388	101,322	402,710
Oct-99	204,242	84,349	288,591	107,829	396,420
<b>Year-to-date</b>	<b>1,922,034</b>	<b>811,323</b>	<b>2,733,357</b>	<b>912,582</b>	<b>3,645,939</b>
98 year-to-date	1,737,708	801,829	2,539,537	853,363	3,392,900
<b>% change</b>	<b>10.6%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>7.5%</b>
<b>*TEUs: 20-foot equivalent units or 20-foot-long cargo container</b>					