



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: ART WONG, Media Relations Manager**

**E-Mail: [wong@polb.com](mailto:wong@polb.com)**

**Website: [www.polb.com](http://www.polb.com)**

**October 19, 1999**

**(562) 590-4123**

**MONTHLY CONTAINER VOLUME TOPS 400,000 TEUS**

Propelled by record imports and rebounding exports, the monthly container volume at the Port of Long Beach set a new record in September. It was the second consecutive month that the port has established new highs for total volume and imports. The equivalent of 402,710 20-foot-long container units was shipped through the port in September, an 8 percent increase over September 1998. The old record was 399,303 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in August.

September was the first time ever that Long Beach - the nation's busiest container port - has surpassed 400,000 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in a single month.

For the port's fiscal year from October 1998 through September 1999, a record 4.3 million TEUs was shipped through Long Beach, an increase of 8.3 percent over the 1997-98 fiscal year.

"We've been saying pretty much the same thing for many months now," said Don Wylie, the port's managing director of maritime services. "But the totals, specifically the import totals, reflect our strong domestic economy. And the outlook, from everything we see, continues to be very good."

The fiscal year ended in September with a record month for imports. The number of inbound containers climbed to 219,080 TEUs, a 10.1 percent increase compared with September 1998. The record volume indicates retailers are expecting a strong holiday September TEUs shopping season. September is usually a big import month for Long Beach, as retailers begin shipping high volumes of Asian-made clothing, toys and consumer electronics for the end-of-the-year holidays. Exports rose 11.6 percent in September to 82,308 TEUs. While still well below the export levels prior to the Asian economic crisis, the third-straight month of increasing exports suggests that the Asia economy continues to improve. Empty containers, most of them

headed back to Asia, rose only 1.3 percent in September to 101,322 TEUs.

For the 12 months through September, imports rose 11.8 percent, a decline from the 15.1 percent jump in 1996-97 - but still a sign that the U.S. economy is strong and Americans are buying up bargain-priced Asia-made goods. Amid the continuing weakness in the Asian economies, exports fell 2.4 percent - an improvement over the 9.9 percent decline in 1996-97. The number of empty containers climbed 12 percent, compared with 82.5 percent in 1996-97 when the trade gap was widening dramatically.

## Port of Long Beach

### Container Traffic (TEUs\*)

	LOADED			EMPTIES	TOTAL
	Inbound	Outbound	TOTAL LOADED		CONTAINERS
<b>Sep-99</b>	<b>219,080</b>	<b>82,308</b>	<b>301,388</b>	<b>101,322</b>	<b>402,710</b>
Sep-98	198,945	73,784	272,729	100,017	372,746
<b>% change</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	<b>11.6%</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
<b>Oct-98</b>	180,719	77,171	257,890	89,572	347,462
<b>Nov-98</b>	192,661	84,291	276,952	91,189	368,141
<b>Dec-98</b>	166,532	87,527	254,059	82,589	336,648
<b>Jan-99</b>	169,397	77,676	247,073	72,239	319,312
<b>Feb-99</b>	172,482	80,000	252,482	71,647	324,129
<b>Mar-99</b>	171,913	88,699	260,612	87,362	347,974

<b>Apr-99</b>	181,575	77,040	258,615	81,071	339,686
<b>May-99</b>	205,640	87,553	293,193	101,274	394,467
<b>Jun-99</b>	194,410	78,962	273,372	100,603	373,975
<b>Jul-99</b>	188,586	74,155	262,741	85,220	347,961
<b>Aug-99</b>	214,709	80,581	295,290	104,015	399,305
<b>Sep-99</b>	219,080	82,308	301,388	101,322	402,710
<b>Fiscal 98-99</b>	<b>2,257,704</b>	<b>975,963</b>	<b>3,233,667</b>	<b>1,068,103</b>	<b>4,301,770</b>
<b>Fiscal 97-98</b>	2,019,131	999,467	3,018,598	953,736	3,972,334
<b>% change</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	<b>-2.4%</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>12.0%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>

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