



## **Holiday Season Shipments Off to Strong Start**

Record Container Cargo Volumes Move Smoothly Through Port

September 18, 2006

Boosted by a robust initial wave of holiday season shipments, terminal operators at the Port of Long Beach reported record-breaking imports that drove total container cargo volume up nearly 10 percent in August.

August is traditionally the beginning of the peak shipping season that extends through October, when importers fill their shelves with extra clothing, toys and other products for end-of-the-year gift-giving.

“Anticipating a solid year, the entire goods movement industry has hired additional workers to handle the growing demand for trade,” said Chris Lytle, the Port’s Managing Director of Trade Relations and Port Operations . “At the Port, shipments are moving very smoothly.”

In August, the total number of cargo containers climbed 9.7 percent to the equivalent of 675,058 twenty-foot container units, compared with the same month a year ago.

Imports, including the holiday merchandise, jumped 13.6 percent to 347,829 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). For a second consecutive month, exports (mostly raw materials including recycled paper) slowed, declining 5 percent to 105,256 TEUs. The number of empty containers, nearly all headed overseas to be re-filled with products, climbed 11.8 percent to 221,973 TEUs.

The Marine Exchange of Southern California, which monitors vessel traffic, reports no delays although it sees a steady increase in the number of ships calling at the San Pedro Bay ports. “Ships are arriving in larger numbers and in larger sizes, and with few exceptions they are going to their assigned berths with no delays,” said Capt. Manny Aschemeyer, Executive Director of the Marine Exchange. “We have had no reports of any congestion problems at the marine terminals – either with truck traffic or with rail movements. Moreover, the (longshore) labor orders have all been met for each shift, with no gang shortages reported.”

The Port of Long Beach is a gateway for \$100 billion a year in trade that supports approximately 30,000 jobs in Long Beach, 316,000 jobs in Southern California. Port operations generate about \$5 billion a year in tax revenues. Through its award-winning Green Port Policy, the Port is also a global leader in environmental stewardship.

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