

## Strongest April on Record at Port of Long Beach

### Demand driven by online spending, retailers restocking shelves

May 12, 2021

An ongoing cargo boom largely driven by online purchases lifted the Port of Long Beach to its strongest April on record.

Dockworkers and terminal operators moved 746,188 twenty-foot equivalent units in April, a 43.6% increase from the same month last year. It was the first time the nation's second-busiest seaport handled more than 700,000 TEUs in the month of April, surpassing the previous record set in April 2019 by 118,066 TEUs.



Imports grew 44.8% to 367,151 TEUs, while exports climbed 21% to 124,069 TEUs. Empty containers moved through the Port were up 55.8% to 254,970 TEUs. The Port has moved 3,122,315 TEUs during the first four months of 2021, a 41.8% increase from the same period in 2020.

"International trade will help jumpstart the economy, and the Port of Long Beach will lead the way by protecting the health of our dockworkers and providing top-notch customer service to keep cargo moving," said Mario Cordero, Executive Director of the Port of Long Beach. "We remain optimistic as online spending continues to soar, retailers prepare for a busy summer season and businesses continue to reopen following months of closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic."

"We are in the midst of our best trade periods in Port history, but we cannot forget that the national economy remains in recovery mode," said Long Beach Harbor Commission President Frank Colonna. "We are closely collaborating with our industry stakeholders to handle the resurgence of cargo we're experiencing after the dramatic declines we saw last year due to COVID-19."

April marked the 10th consecutive month that the Port of Long Beach has broken cargo movement records for a particular month amid a historic cargo surge that started in July 2020.

The rise in online consumer spending continued to squeeze the national supply chain with loaded vessels, increased dwell times and shrinking capacity.

The Port of Long Beach spent the past decade preparing for the challenges of cargo growth through an aggressive \$4 billion capital improvement program resulting in terminal upgrades, a new bridge and the completion this summer of the Long Beach Container Terminal at Middle Harbor – one of the most technologically advanced and greenest container terminals in the world.

In the next 10 years, the Port plans to invest another \$1.7 billion for rail improvements, terminal modernization and other strategic infrastructure projects aimed at easing the flow of cargo moving through the nation's second-busiest seaport.

For complete cargo numbers, visit [polb.com/statistics](https://polb.com/statistics).

The Port of Long Beach is the nation's second-busiest seaport. With 175 shipping lines connecting Long Beach to 217 seaports, the Port handles \$200 billion in trade annually, supporting more than 575,000 Southern California jobs.

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