



NEWS RELEASE

AUGUST IMPORTS FUEL CARGO SURGE AT PORT OF LOS ANGELES

Volumes Rebound; Economic, Trade Tensions Linger



Gene Seroka
Port of Los Angeles

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SAN PEDRO, Calif. – Sept. 15, 2020 – The Port of Los Angeles processed 961,833 Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) in August, the first monthly cargo increase in a year. The 12% gain in cargo was driven by imports, which eclipsed 500,000 TEUs for the first time.

The overall monthly volumes were the strongest ever at the Port of Los Angeles. Year to date, cargo has decreased 11.7% compared to 2019.

“In May we saw our lowest container volumes in more than a decade,” said Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Gene Seroka. “Since then, there has been a significant replenishment of warehouse inventories. Coupled with retailers planning for consumer holiday spending, it has created a surge of imports.

“With our recently released 'Signal' data powered by the Port Optimizer™, we are working with supply chain partners to improve cargo fluidity and advanced visibility to track, plan and prepare for cargo,” Seroka said.

[The Signal](#) provides a three-week look at cargo coming into Los Angeles and is updated daily [here](#).

August loaded imports increased 18% to 516,286 TEUs compared to the previous year. Loaded exports decreased 10.2% to 131,429 TEUs. Empty containers increased 13.3% to 314,118 TEUs.

There was one canceled sailing in August, with none scheduled for September. The Port had 89 vessel calls in August, including eight megaships (container ships capable of handling more than 13,000 TEUs). The 17,000-TEU-capacity APL Merlion handled nearly 29,600 TEUs during its visit in August, holding the second highest all-time record for TEUs handled in a single ship visit.

Current and historical data is [available here](#).

The [Port of Los Angeles](#) remains open with all terminals operational during the COVID-19 pandemic. North America’s leading seaport by container volume and cargo value, the Port of Los Angeles facilitated \$276 billion in trade during 2019. San Pedro Bay port complex operations and commerce facilitate one in nine jobs across the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura.

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