
Cargo Declines at Port of Long Beach in February

Reduction of ship visits attributed to coronavirus outbreak overseas

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Cargo volume declined at the Port of Long Beach in February due to fewer ship calls amid the overseas outbreak of the coronavirus and lingering effects of the trade dispute with China.

Terminal operators and dockworkers moved 538,428 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) last month, down 9.8% compared to February 2019. Imports dropped 17.9% to 248,592 TEUs, while exports increased 19.3% to 125,559 TEUs. Empty containers sent overseas decreased 12.8% to 164,277 TEUs.

Although a Phase 1 preliminary trade agreement was signed in January by the United States and China, about \$370 billion in Chinese goods remain under the increased tariffs.



The coronavirus has caused further disruption to the supply chain with an increase in canceled sailings and a reduction in cargo moving through the nation's second-busiest port.

"With the extended factory closures and slowdown of goods movement in China and other Asian countries in February due to Lunar New Year and COVID-19, we are seeing shipping lines needing to cancel some sailings," said Mario Cordero, Executive Director of the Port of Long Beach. "Once the virus is contained, we may see a surge of cargo, and our terminals, labor and supply chain will be ready to handle it."

"Along with the economic effects of reduced trade due to the health situation, we also have the first confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Long Beach. We hope for the swift recovery of these individuals," said Long Beach Harbor Commission President Bonnie Lowenthal. "The Port will continue to monitor the outbreak internationally, and work with our stakeholders to keep our crucial link in the supply chain open and operating."

For detailed cargo numbers, visit polb.com/statistics.

The Port of Long Beach is one of the world's premier seaports, a gateway for trans-Pacific trade and a trailblazer in goods movement and environmental stewardship. 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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Photo caption: A cargo ship leaves Pier J at the Port of Long Beach in February.

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