

COVID-19's Continuing Effects on Trade

The Los Angeles and Long Beach port complexes are the largest in the United States.¹ As such, the container movement statistics at those ports provide a good snapshot of the U.S. trade status. Below are the latest numbers²:

Port of Los Angeles Container Counts

June	2020	2019	Change
Loaded Imports	369,189	396,306	-6.84%
Loaded Exports	109,586	139,318	-21.34%
Empties	212,701	229,153	-7.18%
Total	691,475	764,777	-9.58%

Port of Long Beach Container Counts

June	2020	2019	Change
Loaded Imports	300,714	331,617	-9.30%
Loaded Exports	117,538	133,833	-12.20%
Empties	183,928	211,718	-13.10%
Total	602,180	677,167	-11.10%

Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach Combined Container Counts

June	2020	2019	Change
Loaded Imports	669,903	727,923	-7.97%
Loaded Exports	227,124	273,151	-16.85%
Empties	396,629	440,871	-10.04%
Total	1,293,655	1,441,944	-10.03%

A few take-aways-

1. Differences between the ports deemed attributed, in part, to shifting of vessel berth calls between the two harbors and commodity mix. Thus, averaging of the stats of the two ports better reflects the state of movement overall.
2. While imports are down around 8% compared to last year, exports are lower by nearly 17%. This latter drop is likely the result of “America First” policies, a stronger American dollar relative to our Pacific trading counter-parts and constricted acquisition of raw materials needed for completed export.
3. The 10% reduction of empty container moves reflects a continued imbalance of container equipment and increase in the time containers remain in the field. Exemplifying this is the fact that many of the terminals in the complexes have just announced Bring Your Own Chassis (“BYOC”) policies. With more wheeled containers in the field, empties can not be dispatched for reuse. Hence, the reduction in the number empties being handled by the ports.
4. Covid-19 continues to adversely impact the supply/demand and logistics chains.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis A. Cammarano, Committee Chair

¹In terms of TEU movement.

²With rounding.