

Port of Oakland improved outlook for cargo volume

Container volume up in last 30 days, no vessel logjam at berths

Port of Oakland cargo volume declined last month amidst hints of better times to come. The Port said today that its total March volume dropped 11 percent year-over-year. Imports declined 3 percent from March 2021 while exports fell 25 percent, the Port said. The Port said there are indications that cargo volume growth could return soon. Among them:

- Import loads jumped 10 percent from February 22 to March 22; exports spiked 12 percent.
- March was the eighth-busiest month in Oakland history for import loads.
- Congestion at Oakland vessel berths, a cause of cargo decline, has eased significantly.

“We’re pleased with our March figures,” said Port of Oakland Maritime Director Bryan Brandes. “Despite continued COVID-related lockdowns in China, we expect our container volumes to rise as we approach the summer months.”

The Port attributed diminished business last month to reduced vessel arrivals. Only 82 ships stopped in Oakland during March compared to 93 a year ago, the Port said. West Coast port congestion slowed ship visits according to the Port. So did a COVID-related port shutdown in Shanghai. China is Oakland’s No. 1 trading partner.

Reduced ship visits led to diminished export business at Oakland, the Port said. According to the Port, exporters, especially agricultural shippers, had difficulty finding enough vessel space or containers to transport commodities.

Oakland said its helping exporters by providing an exclusive depot for empty container pick-up. The depot enables shippers to avoid busy marine terminals where most empty containers are stored. ●



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Port of Oakland exporters eligible for new federal incentives USDA to help with user costs for Oakland's pop-up container yard



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Port of Oakland Executive Director Danny Wan



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Port of Oakland Maritime Director Bryan Brandes

Port of Oakland’s new, temporary container yard is getting federal help in the form of financial relief for its customers. The USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) is providing agricultural and other exporters assistance in covering expenses for using the pop-up yard.

“Supply chain issues locally to globally have hampered the US export business through West Coast ports including Oakland,” said Port of Oakland Executive Director Danny Wan. “We thank the USDA for providing financial incentives to our customers. This will promote use of the yard, reduce marine terminal congestion and ease some of the logistics strain for our exporters.”

The temporary container yard opened March 7, 2022, a part of the Administration’s larger program to relieve port congestion. The USDA is offering a \$400 incentive per export reefer (refrigerated container) and \$200 for a “dry” container (non-reefer). This funding is for the temporary staging of loaded export containers. In addition, the USDA is offering a \$125 incentive to pick up an empty dry container used for agricultural bookings.

“This will help defray the additional costs incurred by our shippers and make usage of the new facility more feasible,” said Port of Oakland Maritime Director Bryan Brandes. “The temporary yard provides a place for truckers to easily pick up empty containers to be loaded with US exports and it allows for staging loaded containers ready to be shipped overseas without crowding busy terminals.”

“This federal partnership highlights Oakland’s traditional role as a critical export gateway,” added Mr. Brandes. “We continue to work closely with ocean carriers to restore services here so that shippers can have more opportunity for outbound vessel space.”

Maritime industry experts are saying that they expect global volatility in the supply chain to continue for months. Ship schedule disruptions continue due to multiple factors including pandemic impacts on trucking and marine terminal operations at China’s largest ports. ●



Port of Oakland's Seaport Logistics Complex kicks off with major tenant CenterPoint leases new warehouse to PCC Logistics

Reprint from *American Journal of Transportation*, Apr 13 2022

A major logistics company will soon occupy the enormous new warehouse at the Port of Oakland's designated Seaport Logistics Complex. Industrial real estate giant CenterPoint Properties completed the massive, 460,000+ square-foot warehouse at 1300 Maritime Street last year. CenterPoint signed PCC Logistics as the new tenant in January of this year.

"This effectively marks the launch of the Port's Seaport Logistics Complex, a long-awaited re-use of land that was once occupied by the US Army," said Port of Oakland Executive Director Danny Wan. "The warehouse construction supported local jobs and now with a tenant moving in, that means more jobs being generated here in Oakland."

PCC Logistics is headquartered in the city of San Leandro, California, the next city south of Oakland. PCC serves customers who ship their goods to and from the West Coast domestically and internationally. CenterPoint Landing is the name of the new warehouse.

Activating CenterPoint Landing means the first phase of the redevelopment of the former Oakland Army Base is done.

The 27-acre location is an exceptional site for shippers because the facility is located within the Port of Oakland footprint providing ready access to Oakland's marine terminals rail facilities, and highways.

"The new warehouse operation, being so close to marine and rail terminals, will be efficient for moving cargo through Oakland," said Port of Oakland Maritime Director Bryan Brandes. "This is a vision the Port has had for more than a decade and now it's coming to fruition at just the right time." The increase in import cargo during the pandemic has been putting stress on all the major U.S. West Coast ports. The new facility will help ease the flow of goods at the Oakland Seaport.


Transloading, the process of transferring cargo between international and domestic modes of transportation, is common near West Coast ports; however, Oakland will now become one of the few ports in the U.S. where transloading can occur within the Port area.

The Seaport Logistics Complex will eventually cover 180 acres of Port land. ●

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Board of Port Commissioners approved a development agreement with CenterPoint in November 2017.

- The deal became official in January 2018.
- A building construction permit was approved in July 2019, and CenterPoint Landing was completed in 2021.
- The agreement with the Port called for CenterPoint to develop a \$52 million logistics facility on Port property that once served as an Army supply depot.
- This was the result of negotiation between CenterPoint, the Port, and Revive Oakland and Oakland Works, a broad coalition of more than 30 community organizations.
- Local jobs were created through project construction.



INDUSTRY RESOURCE LINKS:

- ▲ [Oakland Portal](#)
- ▲ [Oakland Seaport Map](#)
- ▲ [Ocean Carrier Services](#)
- ▲ [Shipping Forms & Permits](#)
- ▲ [Shore Power & Vessel Commissioning](#)
- ▲ [Trucker Resources](#)
- ▲ [TWIC](#)
- ▲ [Maritime Services Directory](#)

About the Port of Oakland

The Port of Oakland oversees the Oakland Seaport, Oakland International Airport, and nearly 20 miles of waterfront including Jack London Square. The Port's 5-year strategic plan - **Growth with Care** - pairs business expansion with community benefits, envisioning more jobs and economic stimulus as the Port grows. Together with its business partners, the Port supports more than 84,000 jobs. Connect with the Port of Oakland and Oakland International Airport through Facebook, or with the Port on Twitter, YouTube, and at www.portofoakland.com



COVID UPDATES

- [COVID update - BA.2 variant news story here](#)
- [Free confidential COVID testing - find a testing site](#)
- [Stay protected - get your COVID-19 booster dose](#)
- [Slow the spread - get vaccinated](#)
- [Protect yourself - get a flu shot](#)
- [Wearing masks - latest masking guidance here](#)