

Port of Long Beach has quite an impact

Port points to 30,000 jobs, \$1.54B in wages directly linked to it.

By Eric Johnson
Monday, April 18, 2005

LONG BEACH — The Port of Long Beach has long pointed to its economic benefit to the city, the region and the nation, and now it's doing so in creative ways a billboard on Second Street in Belmont Shore touts the number of jobs the port helps generate nationwide.

The port's economic impact in the city came into clearer view Monday, when the port planning department released data showing that nearly 30,000 jobs and \$1.54 billion in wages are directly attributable to port activity. That accounts for one job in eight in Long Beach.

The economic impact report, initially released in December, analyzed the port's effect on Long Beach, Los Angeles County, the five-county region, the state and the nation. The Long Beach data were recently refined and presented to the Harbor Commission Monday.

Nationwide, the port is directly or indirectly tied to almost 1.4 million jobs, resulting in \$46.9 billion in wages. Nearly \$98 billion worth of foreign goods were imported to the United States via the port, resulting in \$65 billion in spending to distribute the cargo.

Roughly 40 percent of the jobs (about 564,000) nationwide are in retail sales of the goods that come through the port.

But in Long Beach, only about 10 percent of jobs tied to the port are in retail sales. The bulk come in port-related services, largely the result of the \$430 in local business revenues generated per container.

The amount of revenue for local businesses in the five-county greater Los Angeles region was \$950, with sizable slices of that money going toward \$2 billion in wages for inland transportation, terminal operation and other cargo container handling services in the region.

The report offers a one-year snapshot of the port's economic reach and it only represents the impact of trade through Long Beach, not the neighboring competitor in Los Angeles.

"You can probably double these numbers to get a sense of the impacts from both sides," said Larry Cottrill, manager of master planning.

Together, the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles bring in 45 percent of all containers entering the United States.

Port staff compiled the report with 2003 and 2004 data from the U.S. Department of Commerce and The Journal of Commerce, among other sources. They also partnered with Rutgers University in New Jersey to update the 15-year-old methodology to more accurately reflect the port's economic footprint.