



The Maryland Port Administration

PRESS RELEASE

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AUTOS BOUNCING BACK IN A BIG WAY

Port Handles More Cars in March Than at Any Time in the Last 10 Years

(BALTIMORE, MD) --- The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) announced today that it handled more autos in March at the public marine terminals of the Port of Baltimore than at any time in at least the last ten years. In March, 38,053 autos came through the Port's public terminals. The Port's previous record for most cars handled was 37,552 in July 2008.

"After an extremely challenging economic period, we are continuing to see positive indicators that show our economy is on its way back," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "The auto market is an excellent early gauge on consumer confidence and demand. We look forward to hearing more good news as we continue to move Maryland's economy forward."

Today's news provides another boost for the Port of Baltimore's auto business, which like other U.S. ports had seen declines in cargo during the global economic downturn. In January 2009 in the heart of the economic downturn, auto volumes at the Port dropped to 13,558 cars.

Approximately 1,150 direct jobs at the Port of Baltimore are generated by the Port's auto business.

Recently the MPA announced that BMW had begun a new contract at the Port of Baltimore that calls for the automaker to ship 50,000 new vehicles through Baltimore annually for the next five years. The agreement with BMW is expected to generate about 200 new jobs.

The Port of Baltimore generates about 16,700 direct jobs. Out of about 360 U.S. ports, Baltimore is ranked number one for handling roll on/roll off cargo; trucks; imported forest products; and imported gypsum, sugar and iron ore. The Port is responsible for about \$3.7 billion in personal wage and salary income. Activities at the Port of Baltimore generate nearly \$400 million in state and local taxes.

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