

## **Port of Baltimore handles record amount of container traffic due to better economy**

Associated Press

Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley says the Port of Baltimore has set a new record for its handling of container traffic.

The port's public marine terminals handled the equivalent of about 632,480 full-size containers for a 12-month period beginning in April 2010 and ending March 31. The previous 12-month record was between February 2006 and January 2007 when the port handled the equivalent of about 629,605 containers.

O'Malley on Thursday attributed the increase to improved economic conditions and the port's successful handling of long-term container contracts with major lines. He said the container business also was bolstered by a new direct container shipping service to the Far East.

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## **Port of Baltimore sets container traffic record**

### **Increase attributed to recovery, Far East service, long-term pacts**

By Michael Dresser, The Baltimore Sun

Buoyed by an improved economy, the Port of Baltimore has set a new record in its handling of container traffic for the 12-month period that ended with March, Gov. Martin O'Malley announced Thursday.

The port's public marine terminals handled the equivalent of 632,482 full-size containers between last April 1 and March 31. The best previous 12 months came between February 2006 and January 2007 – before the recent recession – when the port shipped and received the equivalent of 629,604 containers. O'Malley attributed the surge to improved economic conditions, as well as the port's success in landing long-term container contracts with major lines such as Evergreen Marine and Mediterranean Shipping Co. He said the container business was also bolstered by a new direct container shipping service to the Far East.

Improving container traffic has long been a primary objective for the port, where that line of business has been a weak spot in its competition with other East Coast ports. Baltimore has traditionally been more successful with forest products, bulk commodities, automobiles and roll-on, roll-off cargo such as construction and agricultural equipment.

## **Port of Baltimore handles record amount of container traffic due to better economy, contracts**

The Republic/Associated Press

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ABC-TV 27 Pennsylvania/Associated Press

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## **Port of Baltimore container cargo hits record**

Baltimore Business Journal

Container cargo is continuing to grow at the Port of Baltimore, with a record volume of 632,500 containers over the past year.

The volume from April 2010 through March 2011 beat the previous record for a 12-month period, 629,600 from February 2006 to January 2007.

Gov. Martin O'Malley pointed to the resurgence as a sign of economic recovery in Maryland. The port employs about 16,700 people and generates about \$400 million in state and local tax revenue.

Helping to grow container volume were recent contract extensions with Evergreen Marine and Mediterranean Shipping Co., as well as new weekly service to Asia through Mediterranean shipping.

## **WBAL Radio**

The Port of Baltimore has set a new record for the number containers it has handled in a one year-period. In the period ending March 31, the Maryland Port Administration reports the Port of Baltimore's terminals handled 632,482 containers known as TEUs (Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units). The previous record was set in the period ending January 31, 2007.

The news follows Governor O'Malley signing multi-year contract extensions with Evergreen Marine and Mediterranean Shipping Company.

"This is another positive sign of an economy that is getting back on track," said Governor O'Malley in a news release.

"In the last few years, the Port of Baltimore has been successful in securing major international container shipping companies to long-term contracts. The Port has also initiated a new direct container service to the Far East. These are both key reasons for increased business, and more importantly they are key reasons for a stable labor environment for thousands of good-paying, family-supporting jobs at this Port."

## **12-Month Container Volume Hits Record at Port of Baltimore's Public Terminals**

### [JOC Sailings](#)

Last week, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley [announced](#) that the Port of Baltimore's public marine terminals had set a record by handling 632,482 TEUs from April 2010 through March 2011, the best 12-month period for container traffic in the port's history.

The previous record of 629,604 TEUs was set between February 2006 and January 2007, before the economic downturn.

“This is another positive sign of an economy that is getting back on track,” Gov. O’Malley said. “In the last few years, the Port of Baltimore has been successful in securing major international container shipping companies to long-term contracts. The Port has also initiated a new direct container service to the Far East. These are both key reasons for increased business, and more importantly they are key reasons for a stable labor environment for thousands of good-paying, family-supporting jobs at this Port.”

Long-term contract extensions with Evergreen and Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) guarantee the transportation of containers through the port for the next several years. MSC also has begun a new direct, weekly container service from Baltimore to the Far East, which has increased the carrier’s vessel calls and volume at the port.

## **Port of Baltimore Sets Cargo Container Handling**

Hellenic Shipping News/Patch

The Port of Baltimore’s public marine terminals set a record by handling 632,482 full-size cargo containers from April 2010 through March 2011, the best 12-month period in the Port’s history.

The previous record for full-size cargo containers was set between February 2006 and January 2007, before the national economic downturn, when 629,604 containers were handled.

Compared to last fiscal year, the number of cargo containers handled at the Port is up 13 percent; the number of automobiles coming through the Port is up 21 percent; and the imported roll on/roll off – farm and construction equipment, imported forest products, gypsum, sugar and iron ore – is up 41 percent this fiscal year.

“This is another positive sign of an economy that is getting back on track,” said Governor Martin O’Malley in statement. “In the last few years, the Port of Baltimore has been successful in securing major international container shipping companies to long-term contracts.”

In the last three years, the Port has signed multi-year, long-term contract extensions with major international container shipping companies Evergreen Marine and Mediterranean Shipping Company, according to a press release accompanying the announcement. The extensions are expected to guarantee the transport of containers through the Port of Baltimore for the next several years, supporting the growth of maritime business, as well as sustaining and increasing port jobs.

The Mediterranean Shipping Company also began a new direct, weekly container service from the Port to the Far East called the Golden Gate service. That service has both increased MSC’s total vessel calls and the number of their container cargos through the Port.

O'Malley said the new contracts and the direct container service to the Far East are key reasons for increased business, and will help maintain a stable labor environment for thousands of jobs at this Port.”

Out of approximately 360 U.S. ports, Baltimore is ranked first for handling imported roll on/roll off – farm and construction equipment, and imported forest products, gypsum, sugar and iron ore.

The Port of Virginia in Norfolk handles the most cargo containers in the U.S. Baltimore is ranked second for exporting cars.

Activities at the Port of Baltimore generate nearly \$400 million in state and local taxes. The Port of Baltimore generates about 16,700 direct jobs, and is responsible for about \$3.7 billion in personal wage and salary income, according to a press release from the Port.