

About our industry and its economic impact



West Coast Ports' Regional and National Economic Impact

- The U.S. and regional West Coast economies rely heavily on strong West Coast ports.
- West Coast ports support more than 9 million U.S. jobs, with a domestic business impact of \$2.1 trillion.
- 12.5 percent of the U.S. GDP is tied to cargo moving through West Coast ports.



The Nation's Leading Ports – from Southern California to the Pacific Northwest

- More than 15 million loaded container TEUs move through West Coast ports each year.
- Los Angeles/Long Beach is the busiest container port complex in the nation, and is the top gateway for trade with Asia.
- For most of the past two decades, cargo movement has risen steadily; following a brief dip in 2008-9, volumes have stabilized.
- Looking ahead, modern terminals will be critical in enabling our ports to continue to be engines of economic growth.
- Needless to say, safety, security and commitment to environmental standards must go hand-in-hand with these efforts.



Critical Issue: The Future Competitiveness of West Coast Ports

- Despite success on the West Coast, our ports are in an intense battle to maintain current volume levels and competitiveness as shippers and retailers continually seek less expensive and more efficient access to key markets in the United States. Competitive factors include:
- Expansion of ports in Canada and Mexico – with improved rail service directly into prime Midwestern US – is attracting shippers away from ports in California, Oregon and Washington State;
- The opening of the expanded Panama Canal has the potential to lure discretionary cargo away from the West Coast and negatively impact our ports' role in the national economy; and
- Changes in global manufacturing and shipping patterns (e.g. direct from South Asia, Indonesia and India to the US via the Suez Canal) are attracting a greater share of traffic directly into US ports on the East Coast and Gulf – which have been expanding in anticipation of the increased volumes



Maintaining Competitive Position is More Important than Ever

- Given the potential threat of the Panama Canal and other shipping options, we are working with our member companies and the ILWU to do everything we can to maintain our competitive position.
- We believe that terminal modernization, overall efficiency and off-terminal infrastructure are among the essential issues that will enable us to compete.
- Labor peace is critical to maintaining West Coast ports' competitive position.