



# The Maryland Port Administration PRESS RELEASE

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## **PORT'S CARGO BUSINESS RECOVERING FROM DIFFICULT 2009** *Autos and Containers Showing Improvement*

(BALTIMORE, MD) -- Governor Martin O'Malley today announced that some of the key commodities of the Port of Baltimore's public marine terminals are rebounding from one of the worst economic downturns in U.S. history. Comparing Fiscal Year 2010 (July 2009- June 2010) with Fiscal Year 2009 (July 2008-June 2009), automobiles at the Port were up 26 percent, pulp (produces facial tissues, paper towels, and napkins) was up 13 percent, and containers were up two percent.

"The improved performance of some of our key cargos at the Port of Baltimore's public terminals is a positive sign as we continue to bounce back from the worst economic period since the Great Depression," said Governor O'Malley. "2009 was a very tough year for the maritime industry but the Port of Baltimore has been able to maintain a solid position, in part, because of the long term contracts that are in place to help generate and maintain thousands of good, working-class jobs that benefit Maryland families."

Comparing the first six months of 2010 with the same time period in 2009, general cargo tonnage was up eight percent. General cargo is defined as containers, autos, forest products, roll on/roll off cargo (farm and construction equipment), and steel.

### **Latest Port Rankings:**

Despite a decline in tonnage, Baltimore was able to maintain market share for most of its key commodities in 2009. The Port remains number one among U.S. ports for handling imported roll on/roll off, imported forest products, imported sugar, and imported gypsum. The Port is ranked second for exported autos and imported iron ore. Baltimore is ranked third nationally for imported autos, imported aluminum, and exported coal.

### **Economic Impact**

Activities at the Port of Baltimore generate about 16,700 direct jobs, while about 120,000 jobs in Maryland are linked to Port activities. The Port is responsible for \$3.7 billion in personal wages and salary and nearly \$400 million in state and local taxes.

### **Cruise Business:**

The Port of Baltimore continues to see remarkable progress in its cruise business. For the 2010 cruise season, the Port is expected to set new records with 91 homeport cruises and approximately 190,000 passengers. The number of cruises offered in 2009 (81) tripled from that in 2008 (27). Last year's record number of passengers (167,000) ranked Baltimore sixth on the East Coast, behind only four Florida cruise ports and the Port of New York, and ahead of Boston, Charleston, Norfolk and Philadelphia. The Port of Baltimore is scheduled to have 112 homeport cruises in 2011.

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## *Port of Baltimore Recovering from 2009*

### **2009 Statistics**

The 2009 business statistics for the Port of Baltimore reflect the economic downturn that swept the country. However, given the downturn, Baltimore was still one of the highest performing ports in the country. The amount of foreign commerce that came through the Port of Baltimore was 22 million tons, which ranked 15<sup>th</sup> out of approximately 360 U.S. ports. The total dollar value of foreign commerce that moved through the Port's public and private terminals in 2009 was \$30.2 billion, ranking Baltimore 12<sup>th</sup> nationally.

The total amount of export tonnage that left the Port of Baltimore's public terminals for international destinations in 2009 was three million tons, a nine percent decline from 2008. Imported tonnage headed to Baltimore's public terminals was 4.3 million tons, which was down 23 percent from 2008.

In 2009, the Port's public terminals handled 7.3 million tons of general cargo, which was down 18 percent from 2008.

Among the key commodities handled at the public terminals in 2009:

- Pulp was up one percent;
- Containers were down 10 percent;
- Autos declined 30 percent;
- Roll on/roll off tonnage decreased 38 percent;
- Paper was down 48 percent;

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