

PMSA

PACIFIC MERCHANT SHIPPING ASSOCIATION

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Average Dwell Time at San Pedro Bay Seaports declined – but so did volumes

Dwell Time is the time it takes for a container to be picked up from a terminal after being unloaded from a vessel, and it can also be a metric to measure efficiency.

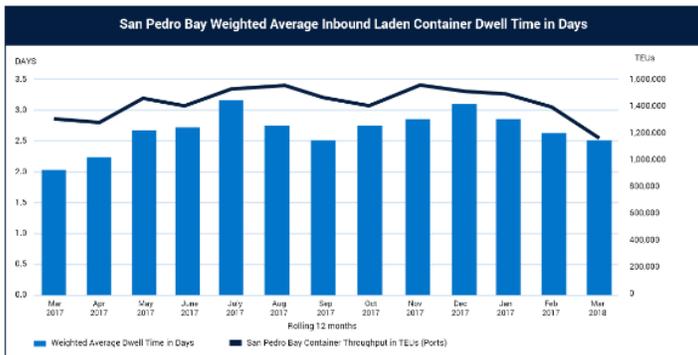
While the Port of LA and Long Beach often advertise their own stats, many see them as one gateway – the San Pedro Bay Port Complex. Together the two ports reported record breaking volumes at the start of the year – prior to Chinese New Year when trade begins to slow. Both produced press releases celebrating their volumes earlier this year. Equally importantly, they also displayed great efficiency through the declining dwell times.

In recent months, container dwell times have continuously been declining. The average dwell time at San Pedro Bay Ports for the month of March was 2.51 days, down from an average of 2.63 days in February and 2.87 days in January. While the volumes have been inconsistent in the last three months, the descending dwell times remain the case.

The number of containers kept on a terminal for 5 days or longer was 4% in March; it was the same in February but down from 5.6% of the containers kept at a terminal longer than 5 days in January.

As for the volumes, the Port of LA and Long Beach had a combined 1,153,124 container throughput – down from the 1,386,849 TEUs in February and 1,466,559 TEUs in January, according to port websites. Both ports attributed the high volumes at the start of the year to the preparation anticipating Chinese New Year when trade slows as we saw in March volumes.

Although decreasing volumes is not what the ports want to see, the improved dwell time is a great sign for the terminals’ efficiency.



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About the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA)

The Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA) is an independent, not-for-profit association focused on global trade. PMSA operates offices in Oakland, Long Beach and Seattle, and represents owners and operators of marine terminals and U.S. and foreign vessels operating throughout the world.