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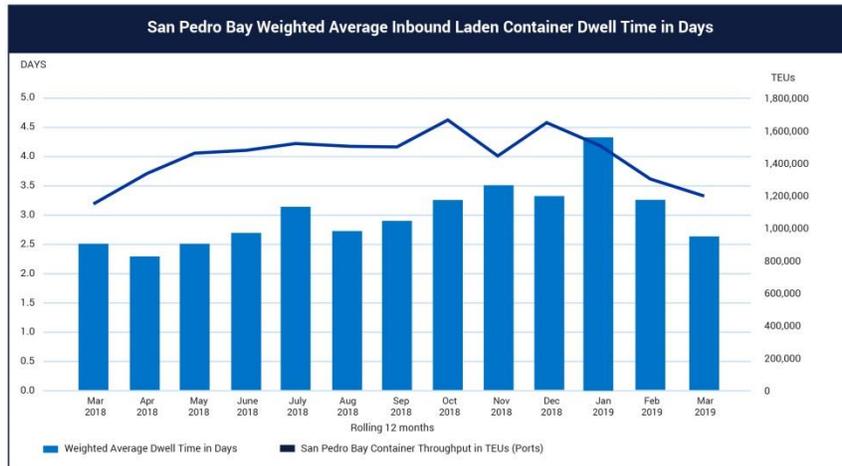
Container Dwell Time Continues To Decrease

Container dwell time for the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach continues to decline with March numbers averaging less than three days. Dwell time was at the highest in recent months due to front loading of cargo in anticipation of Trump tariff deadlines, which has since been withdrawn.

“The influx of cargo due to national tariff policies with few options to take cargo to off-dock locations, caused dwell time to increase in recent months, contributing to congestion on marine terminals,” said Jessica Alvarenga, Manager of Government Affairs for the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association.

By comparison, in the month of January, the average container stayed at a marine terminal for 4.32 days, with 21.9% of all containers staying five days or longer. “It is a relief to see that the average container dwell time in March was 2.68 days. While the dwell time numbers are decreasing, 8.7% of containers remained at a terminal for five days which is too high for an efficient operation,” said Alvarenga. According to data gathered between May 2016 and September 2018, 2.14 days was the average container dwell time with an average of 5.5% of containers staying five days or longer prior to the tariff-related surge. Those are the numbers we hope to get back to.

Longer dwell times impact marine terminal efficiency, and the resulting congestion hinders the fluid movement of cargo. “It is much easier to move cargo efficiently when cargo is picked up and not left at terminals for storage,” stated Alvarenga. “In the coming months we hope container dwell time can reach the previous average – that should be the monthly goal.”



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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.