



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Container Dwell Time Continues Upward Trend

Container dwell time at San Pedro Bay ports reached a new high in January, continuing the rising trend we have been seeing for months. For the month of January, containers stayed at terminals for an average of 5.1 days in between the time they were unloaded from a vessel and picked up by a truck, a more than two-fold increase from the 2.4 day average observed in January 2020.

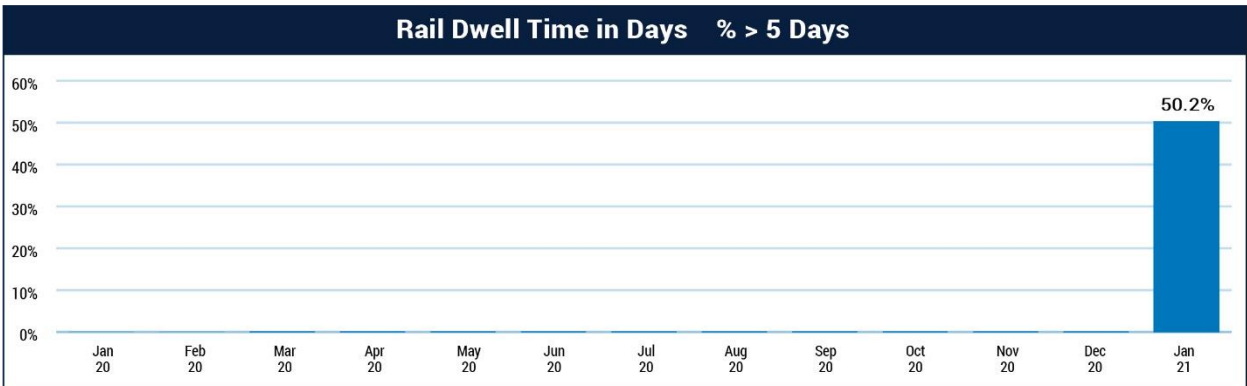
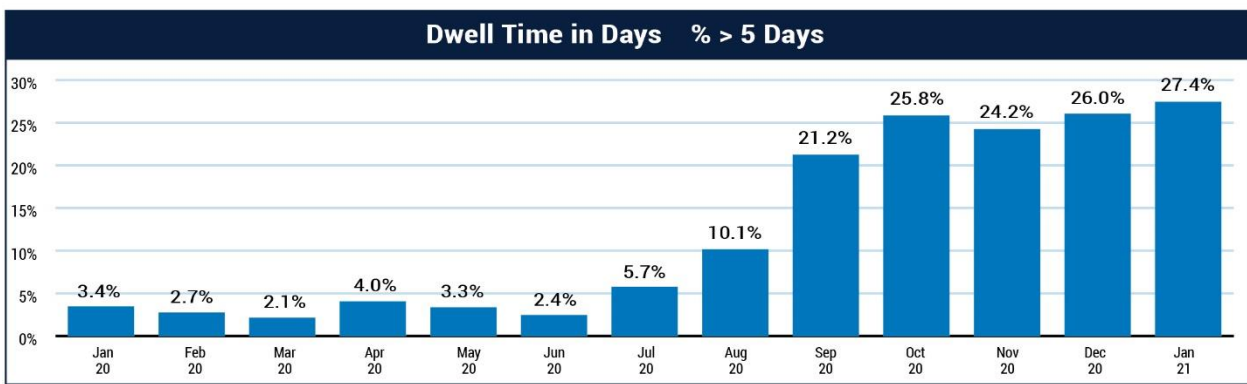
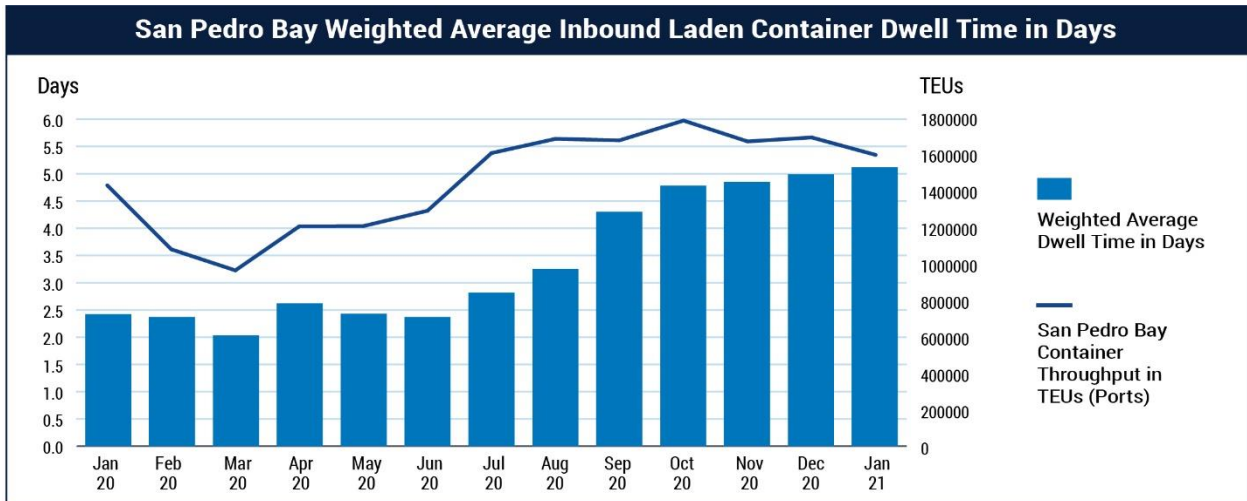
“These are significant metrics to track because the long dwell time is telling of the congestion we are seeing in the San Pedro gateway. The more containers stack up on terminals, the more challenging it is to efficiently flow them in and out,” explained Jessica Alvarenga, Manager of Government Affairs for the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association.

Contributing to the January figure, the San Pedro Bay ports observed 27.4% of containers remaining uncollected at terminals for more than five days.

PMSA also began tracking rail dwell time for on-dock rail for marine terminals in the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. While there is no previous data to compare it to, dwell time for on-dock rail in January was also high. Containers remained on terminals on an average 7.9 days before departing, and 50.2% of containers remained for more than five days.

The factors contributing to the surge in cargo and subsequent congestion continues to impact the entire supply chain. To keep cargo flowing, marine terminals have opened additional gates to allow more trucks inside the terminal, increased hours of operation to allow trucking companies greater access at night and on weekends and have leased land outside the ports to create more room in order to ease congestion on dockside terminals.

“Container dwell time at San Pedro ports has been high but it’s an industry-wide issue. Marine terminal operators are doing the best they can to continue handling containers and keep the supply chain running,” shared Alvarenga.



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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.