



# The Maryland Port Administration

# PRESS RELEASE

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## RECORD FIRST HALF OF 2012 FOR PORT OF BALTIMORE

### ***Surpasses Previous Mark Set Before Recession; Continues Port's Strong Momentum From 2011***

(BALTIMORE, MD) --- Governor Martin O'Malley today announced that the Port of Baltimore's public marine terminals handled a record 4.83 million tons of general cargo during the first six months of 2012 topping the previous record of 4.69 million tons set during the pre-recession first half of 2008. The new record is also a 10 percent jump from the first six months of 2011 when the port handled 4.38 million tons of cargo.

"This latest record achieved by the Port of Baltimore further proves that one of Maryland's main economic engines has fully bounced back from one of the most challenging economic periods in our country's history," said Governor O'Malley. "The more cargo that comes across the port's docks, the more good news that is for the thousands of men and women who work there and depend on it to support their families."

The Port of Baltimore's public marine terminals handled 8.89 million tons of general cargo last year, which was up nine percent from 2010 and just short of the all-time record of 8.96 million tons set in 2008. General cargo is defined as non-bulk cargos. At the Port of Baltimore, the majority of general cargo includes containerized goods, autos, forest products, and roll on/roll off (farm and construction) equipment.

Among the key commodities at the Port of Baltimore's public marine terminals during the first half of 2012, roll on/roll off (farm and construction) equipment was up 36 percent, the number of automobiles handled at the Port of Baltimore was up 27 percent, and containers were up seven percent.

In 2011 the Port of Baltimore saw a 15 percent increase in cargo from 2010 which marked the greatest increase of growth by any major U.S. port. The Port's public and private marine terminals saw 37.8 million tons of cargo cross their docks in 2011, up from 32.8 million tons in 2010. The total dollar value amount of that cargo was more than \$51.4 billion, the Port's highest dollar value ever and a 24 percent jump from 2010. The port also set seven other cargo records in 2011.

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The Port of Baltimore is ranked as the top port among 360 U.S. ports for handling farm and construction machinery, autos and light trucks, imported forest products, imported sugar, imported iron ore and imported gypsum. Baltimore ranks second in the U.S. for exported coal, imported salt, and imported aluminum. Overall Baltimore is ranked 11<sup>th</sup> for the total dollar value of cargo and 12<sup>th</sup> for cargo tonnage.

Business at the Port of Baltimore generates about 14,630 direct jobs, while about 108,000 jobs in Maryland are linked to port activities. The Port is responsible for \$3 billion in personal wages and salary and more than \$300 million in state and local taxes.

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