



# Port of Melbourne



22 February 2021

## Port of Melbourne Stakeholder Update 14

### Continued strong container volumes in January

January 2021 was a strong month for total container throughput (full and empty) with 271,087 Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEU), 16.9% above January 2020. Volumes remain strong as we see the continued import trend of increased demand for household and miscellaneous items such as furniture, domestic appliances, toys and sporting goods. The year on year comparison also reflects that January last year (2020) was a soft month for trade.

Overall January 2021 container trade results compared with January 2020 were as follows:

- total container volumes (full and empty) up by 16.9%, with year to date volumes up by 9.0%;
- full overseas container imports were 13.1% above January 2020, with indications that consumers are responding to COVID-19 restrictions with increased spending on homewares, entertainment and technology related commodities;
- full overseas container exports were up 8.9% on January 2020 with increased grain volumes following a strong recent winter crop harvest, particularly wheat and barley;
- Tasmanian full container volumes, excluding transshipments, were down by 2.3%, though year to date volumes are still up by 6.2%;
- empty container movements were 31.0% above January 2020 as full overseas imports increased at a greater rate than full overseas exports, generating additional surplus containers as empties for export;
- full transshipment volumes were 3,600 TEU higher;
- total motor vehicles trade (revenue tonnes) increased 15.8%. This reflects industry comment that demand for new and second hand cars has risen as travel bans have created strong demand for domestic road travel and increased trade vehicle purchases;
- in the dry bulk category, the month was 78.3% (revenue tonnes) above January 2020 with export shipments of grain totalling 131,773 tonnes compared to no shipments in January last year; and
- liquid bulk imports were down 0.8% (revenue tonnes) with petroleum product (refined) imports 66.4% below last year's levels due to reduced demand as a result of the COVID-19 imposed travel restrictions, offset by growth in crude oil.





## **Trade outlook**

Container trade data for early February 2021 continues to follow the January trend recognising that container trade volumes were subdued in the first quarter of 2020 as a result of initial COVID impacts on shipping volumes. Automotive shipping calls are returning to pre-COVID levels and favourable agricultural conditions are resulting in continued strong grain exports.

## **Supply chain**

There were strong empty container movements in January 2021 and PoM has worked with Qube to facilitate increased empty container storage capacity. The recently announced Qube short term arrangement makes available empty container capacity for up to 9,000 TEU in the Swanson Dock precinct and should help to ease the recent congestion issues at a number of empty container parks.

## **Industrial relations**

Throughout January and MTD February, no Protected Industrial Action (PIA) activities were undertaken at the Patrick, VICT and DP World Australia Melbourne terminals. PIA was scheduled to take place from Tuesday 16 February to Monday 22 February at VICT as the union seeks to resolve EA negotiations. On Friday 19 February the PIA at VICT was formally suspended for one (1) month following a ruling by the Fair Work Commission.

## **Community partnerships**

PoM was proud to announce its two year corporate partnership with Williamstown Football Club this month and participated in a jumper presentation with the VFL Women's (VFLW) team. PoM's announcement of its two year corporate partnership with Port Melbourne Football Club at its season launch was postponed due to COVID restrictions, however we have already commenced participation in Port Melbourne FC's Community Sub Committee with other community partners. PoM has also finalised its support for Mission to Seafarers and Stella Marris Seafarer's Centre, meeting with both organisation's leaders this month.

Please call your Port of Melbourne contact or email us at [information@portofmelbourne.com](mailto:information@portofmelbourne.com) if you have any queries.

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