

Shipping exports to China boom

The Vancouver Port Authority's annual report ranks China as the Port of Vancouver's number one trading partner. According to the story that ran in the *Vancouver Sun* (Chinese trade booms at Vancouver port, September 2, 2003), China is now Vancouver's top trading partner in containers, but second to Japan in bulk commodities.

The report also found a near split between container imports and exports. Container imports from China grew to 738,147 teu compared to 720,995 teu container exports. The benefit of a container trade balance is that empty containers do not have to be stored at the Vancouver port and shipping lines do not have to carry empties back to Asia.

The rapid expansion of China's economy is credited as the reason for the increased traffic of goods. The *Vancouver Sun* notes that the shipping boom to China is driven by an increased demand for oil, iron ore, coal and potash.

To view or download the 2002 version of the Vancouver Port Authority's Annual report, please click on:

<http://www.portvancouver.com/about/docs/VPA%202002%20Annual%20Report%20for%20web%20posted%20June%2027%202003.pdf>