



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### Zepol Reports U.S. Vessel Imports are Down 3%

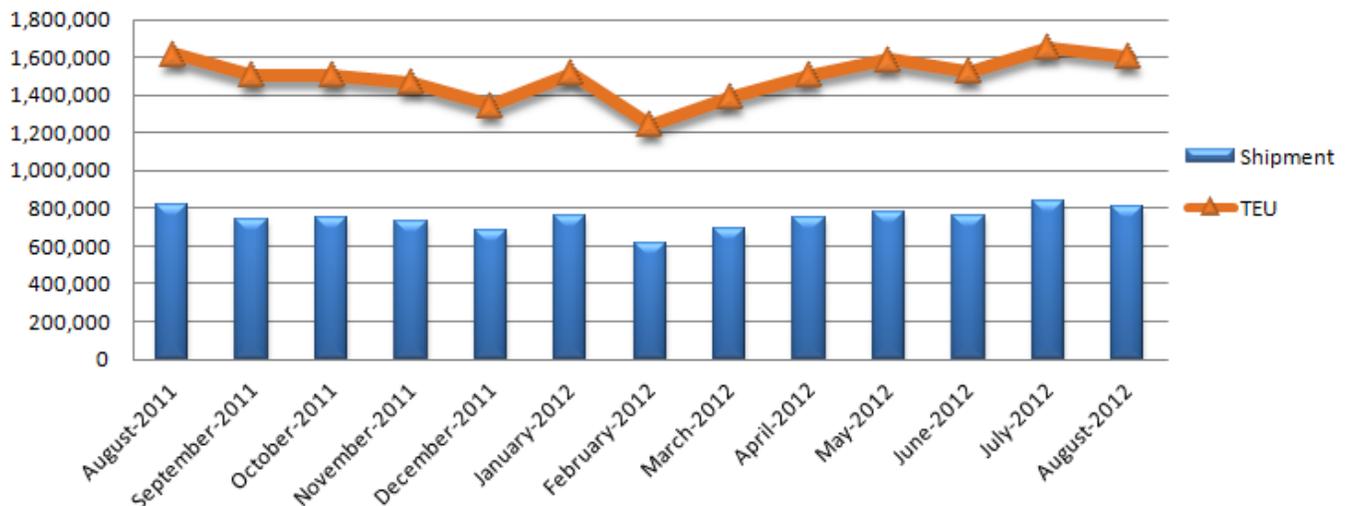
*TEU imports dropped from July to August and are slightly down from August of 2011 by 0.3%*

MINNEAPOLIS, September 17, 2012 — Zepol Corporation, [the leading trade intelligence company](#), reports that U.S. import shipment volume for August, measured in TEUs, is down from July by 3% and 0.3% from August of 2011. It's unusual to see a drop in imports from July to August, since the trend for the past three years has been a spike in the month of August. In 2010 and 2011, August was actually the peak month of the year for TEU imports.

*"The lower August numbers could be due to early holiday purchases in July, which saw abnormally high TEU numbers,"* states Zepol's CEO Paul Rassmussen, *"but may also have to do with the potential for labor strikes at east coast ports from the International Longshoremen's Association and United States Maritime Alliance."*

Although, there are speculations that the strike will not affect import volume and that September will be a major month for U.S. imports. Zepol's U.S. Customs data shows that TEU imports for the 12 days in September are 10% higher than the 12 days of September in 2011.

### Zepol Shipment and TEU Trend



### A Closer Look at U.S. Imports for August:

- 1. Exporting Countries-** The majority of Asian countries saw a drop in shipments to the United States from July to August. China decreased in TEUs by a small 0.59%, but South Korea and Singapore each had a much steeper drop of over 10%. On the other hand, Germany and Italy, the two largest European exporting countries to the United States, both saw an increase in TEUs to the United States by 1.9% and 3.4%, respectively.
- 2. U.S. Ports-** Seven of the top ten U.S. ports posted decreases in TEU imports for August. The Port of Los Angeles, the busiest U.S. port so far this year, decreased from July by 3.9% and the Port of Oakland had a similar story for August with a 7% decrease in TEU volume. The Port of Savannah, however, had a fairly significant increase in imports from July by 7.6% and was the United States' fourth busiest port in August.



- 3. Carriers-** Many VOCCs (vessel-operating common carriers) were down in TEU imports from July to August. Maersk Line had a dip of 5.6% and APL Group also decreased in imports by 3.6%. Three of the top ten VOCCs had an increase in shipments, including Mediterranean Shipping Company which rose 7% and Evergreen Line which was up 3%.

**About Zepol Corporation:**

Zepol Corporation is a Minnesota-based company that works to provide the most complete and up-to-date U.S. trade data with four unique online subscription tools: TradeIQ™ Import, TradeIQ™ Export, TradeView™, and ComplianceIQ™. This release's data is derived from the U.S. Customs Automated Manifest System (AMS), it excludes shipments from empty containers, excludes shipments labeled as freight remaining on board, and may contain other data anomalies.

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