



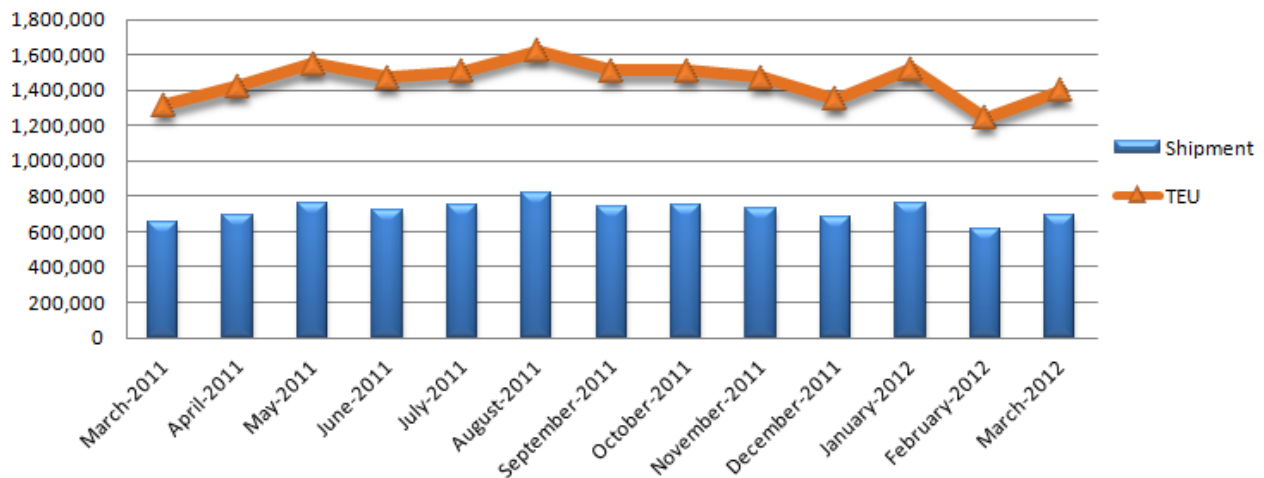
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Contact: Cori Rogers  
Zepol Corporation  
Tel: 612.455.9699  
cori.rogers@zepol.com  
[www.zepol.com](http://www.zepol.com)

**Zepol Reports March Vessel Imports Increase 11.9%**  
*Vessel imports for Q1 of 2012 are up from Q1 of 2011*

MINNEAPOLIS, April 13, 2012 — Zepol Corporation, [the leading trade intelligence company](#), reports that U.S. import shipment volume for March, measured in TEUs, increased 11.9% from February; this is not a surprise due to February's low numbers. More significant is the total 2.6% rise in TEUs for Q1 of 2012, compared to Q1 of 2011, as well as the 6.2% rise this March from March of 2011. In addition, Q1 of 2012 outpaced the first-quarter numbers for the past three years.

**Zepol Shipment and TEU Trend**



**Key Statistics from this Month's Update:**

1. U.S. imports from China had a spike in TEUs of 12.3% from February, but dropped from January by 20%. Total TEU imports from China for Q1 of 2012 were up by a mere 0.1% from Q1 of 2011. However, a more notable increase came from Germany, which rose 20% in March from February. Imports from Germany also had a significant increase of 15.4% in Q1 of 2012 from Q1 of 2011.
2. The majority of inbound cargo to U.S. ports rose in March from February, but failed to surpass January TEUs. The Port of Los Angeles increased in imports by 22.4% from February, but is down 10.6% from January. Similarly, the Port of Long Beach rose in March by 26.8% but was still lower than January imports by 13%. Many U.S. ports saw a small increase in TEU imports for Q1 of 2012 compared to Q1 of 2011. Ports worth mentioning are the Port of Houston and the Port of Charleston, which both rose over 11% in Q1, and were the only ports in the top-ten-list to show increases over 10%.
3. For Vessel-Operating Common Carriers (VOCCs), there were few that rose in TEU imports from February and almost all were down from January numbers. Evergreen Line decreased 12.9% from February and 13% from January. Conversely, Mediterranean Shipping Company increased 13.7% from February and 2.4% from January, the only top-ten VOCC to rise from January imports in



March. For Q1 of 2012, Maersk Line spiked 20.6% from Q1 of 2011 and China Ocean Shipping Company also saw a large increase of 16.2% for Q1.

**Methodology:**

Zepol's data is derived from Bills of Lading entered into the Automated Manifest System. This information represents the number of House manifests entered by importers of waterborne vessel goods. This is the earliest indicator for trade data available for the previous month's import activity. The data excludes shipments from empty containers, excludes shipments labeled as freight remaining on board, and may contain other data anomalies.

**About Zepol Corporation:**

Zepol Corporation is a Minnesota-based company working to provide the most complete and up-to-date U.S. trade data through our subscription tools. TradeIQ™ is a U.S. Customs import Bill of Lading database utilized to find information about competitors, suppliers, prospects, and the products that they use, market, or transport. TradeView™ provides U.S. Census data to visualize the U.S. import and export market. ComplianceIQ™ is a comprehensive tool that proactively alerts users of essential U.S. import trade compliance information.

Zepol's user base includes over 1,000 subscribers representing the leaders of every trade related industry. Our customers are the most important players in the international trade community. Users include leading transportation executives, supply chain professionals, competitive intelligence practitioners, and intellectual property attorneys at:

- Over 40 of the Fortune 500
- 4 of the top 10 Port Authorities by Volume
- 7 of the top 10 Freight Forwarders
- 2 of the top 3 Fruit Importers
- 9 of the top 20 Chemical Companies

###