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U.S. Customs Data shows Container Traffic Decline in the 4th Quarter

“U.S. Importers decrease the number of imports nearly 5% in 2008”

Minneapolis, MN, 1/16/2009 – Container traffic decreased 4.7% in 2008; however the most significant decline was felt in the 4th Quarter at 7.3%. Shipping traffic decreased every month except one when compared to 2007. Total shipments for 2008 are the lowest since 2005 according to Zepol’s [U.S. Customs database](#). Container traffic was approximately 2% less than in 2006, but still 12%, 20%, and 36% greater than 2005, 2004, and 2003 respectively.

Zepol calculates shipping data from the number of shipments processed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s Automated Manifest System (House [Bills of Lading](#) only). The shipments are waterborne container traffic; however some waterborne bulk shipments are included in the data. Below is a graph comparing 2008 and 2007.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2007	822,608	757,562	756,878	811,609	822,479	840,334	915,808	905,318	856,381	862,083	821,107	789,901
2008	780,641	763,651	731,512	767,538	805,404	799,926	856,970	846,442	846,361	828,573	727,474	736,985
Change	-5.4%	0.8%	-3.5%	-5.7%	-2.1%	-5.1%	-6.9%	-7.0%	-1.2%	-4.0%	-12.9%	-6.7%



About Zepol Corporation:

Zepol's TradeIQ™ collects and analyzes over 30,000 ocean import Bills of Lading daily from the U.S. Customs' Automated Manifest System (AMS). TradeIQ™ is a subscription based web service that can be accessed at anytime from anywhere in the world. It is the most up-to-date [import trade data](#) source available; typically, TradeIQ™ is updated within days of a shipment clearing U.S. Customs.

Zepol is a Minnesota-based company working to provide the most complete and up-to-date trade data to organizations around the world. For further information on Zepol and TradeIQ™ visit www.zepol.com.

Companies—from Fortune® 500 giants to thriving small and mid-sized businesses—turn to Zepol to enhance their international trade knowledge base.

- Industry leading companies gather the [competitive intelligence](#) needed to excel by examining their competitors and the products they import.
- Sales and marketing professionals use Zepol's tools to [prospect for leads](#) from the largest and most specific source of data available.
- Sourcing departments [find new suppliers](#) of the products they import.
- [Market researchers analyze](#) new and existing markets by specific products and commodities.
- Legal professionals proactively protect their brands using the [counterfeiter's Bill of Lading data](#).

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