

Activity 1 – Business is Booming

Read the newspaper article **Business booming at Vancouver Port** and answer the following questions.

1. How many people work in the port?
2. How much cargo was handled in 2000?
3. How much more cargo was handled in 2000 than previously? (in millions of tonnes)
4. What are the ports major exports?
5. Who is responsible for regulating the port and the various business that lease the waterfront land?
6. Where is Canada's largest port?
7. Fill in the blank spaces on the following table. The first commodity is done already.

Export	Change in Percent % (+for Increase – for decrease)	Total exported
Wood	+6%	6.1 million tonnes
	+12%	13 million tonnes
Wheat		
Canola	-2%	
		27.6 million tonnes
	+slightly	9.9 million tonnes
Potash		
Sulphur		
	+12%	
Petroleum		3.1 million tonnes

Business booming at Vancouver Port

By David Carrigg
Staff writer

IF YOU THINK THE NUMBER OF CARGO ships anchored in Burrard Inlet has increased the past year, you're right.

That increase in traffic is the reason the Vancouver Port Authority recently set a record for the number of tonnes handled by the port, says spokeswoman Linda Morris.

Morris said the port's 10,000 workers hauled 76.5 million tonnes of cargo in 2000—seven per cent higher than the previous year. The average the past five years is 70 million tonnes.

“For virtually all sectors, that translated into strong, robust growth,” said Norman Stark, president of the VPA. The port's major exports are coal and wheat, but container traffic is growing at a faster rate due to more shipping lines visiting the port.

The port's two container operators shipped out 619,327 containers in 2000, an 11 per cent increase compared to the year before, while 543,851 containers came in, an increase of six per cent.

Stark said the 2000 record was due to a combination of a favourable currency, strong demand for Asian goods and the new lines coming to Vancouver instead of U.S. ports on the western seaboard.

David Stowe, chairman of the VPA, said the port can't take its success against its competitors for granted. “It is crucial we work to maintain our competitive advantage with reliable, cost-effective service and facilities,” he said.

In 1998 the VPA changed from a federal

crown corporation to a crown agency responsible for regulating the port and the various businesses that lease the federal waterfront land. Port Vancouver is Canada's largest port and trades more than \$30 billion in goods with more than 90 nations.

Morris said wood exports continue to grow, increasing six per cent overall to 6.1 million tonnes, buoyed by strong demand in Asia and other regions.

Grain shipments increased 12 per cent to 13 million tonnes, including a 26 per cent increase in wheat exports to 8.5 million tonnes. Canola tonnage dropped two per cent to 3.3 million tonnes. Coal, Port Vancouver's largest export, saw mild gains of two per cent to 27.6 million tonnes in 2000. Higher steel production in Asia, Europe and Latin America accounted for the increase in demand.

Fertilizer exports rose slightly to 9.9 million tonnes. Potash exports grew 15 per cent to 3.9 million tonnes while sulphur shipments, the distinctive yellow piles on the North Vancouver waterfront, grew four per cent to 5.4 million tonnes. Chemical volumes grew 12 per cent to 2.6 million tonnes in 2000. Shipments of petroleum products increased seven per cent to 3.1 million tonnes.

Morris said the Vancouver-Alaska cruise season broke the one-million passenger mark in 2000 with 1,053,989 revenue passengers, representing an 11 per cent increase over 1999. Port Vancouver hosted 336 cruise vessel sailings this year, representing a nine per cent increase over voyages in the 1999 cruise season.

Source: **Vancouver Courier**, February 11, 2001

Activity 1 - Business is Booming (Answers)

1. How many people work in the port? **10,000**
2. How much cargo was handled in 2000? **76.5 million tonnes**
3. How much more cargo was handled in 2000 than previously? (in millions of tonnes) **6.5 million tonnes**
4. What are the ports major exports? **Coal, wheat, and containers**
5. Who is responsible for regulating the port and the various business that lease the waterfront land? **Vancouver Port Authority (a crown agency)**
6. Where is Canada's largest port? **Vancouver**
7. Fill in the blank spaces on the following table. The first commodity is done already.

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Wood	+6%	6.1 million tonnes
Grain	+12%	13 million tonnes
Wheat	+26%	8.5 million tonnes
Canola	-2%	3.3 million tonnes
Coal	+2%	27.6 million tonnes
Fertilizer	+slightly	9.9 million tonnes
Potash	+15%	3.9 million tonnes
Sulphur	+4%	5.4 million tonnes
Chemicals	+12%	2.6 million tonnes
Petroleum	+7%	3.1 million tonnes