The Virginia Port Authority board and its chief say they don’t know the salaries of top officials at Virginia International Terminals, which they say is a private company. 

**JACOB PALMER** Staff photographer | 757-448-8500

Virginia International Terminals are privately owned, though the port authority supervises the company’s operations. The Virginia Port Authority says it doesn’t know the salaries of high-level VIT officials. Its attorneys say that knowledge of salaries is a private, competitive matter.

Where they get their money

Virginia International Terminals was created by the Virginia Port Authority in 1970 to handle containers, which the authority’s attorney says isn’t the point.

Where we reach for other companies’ top executives and how much they earn: 

Virginia International Terminals

- **2004 operating revenue:** $358 million
- **2004 operating expenses:** $305 million
- **2004 profit:** $53 million

**Virginia Port Authority**

- **2004 operating revenue:** $1.8 billion
- **2004 operating expenses:** $1.7 billion
- **2004 profit:** $200 million

**Yellow: Port of Los Angeles**

- **2004 operating revenue:** $3.5 billion
- **2004 operating expenses:** $2.8 billion
- **2004 profit:** $700 million

**Magenta: Port of New York/New Jersey**

- **2004 operating revenue:** $4 billion
- **2004 operating expenses:** $3.3 billion
- **2004 profit:** $700 million

**Cyan: Virginia International Terminals**

- **2004 operating revenue:** $358 million
- **2004 operating expenses:** $305 million
- **2004 profit:** $53 million

**Black: Virginia Port Authority**

- **2004 operating revenue:** $1.8 billion
- **2004 operating expenses:** $1.7 billion
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**PUBLIC COMPANY**

- **2004 operating revenue:** $1.8 billion
- **2004 operating expenses:** $1.7 billion
- **2004 profit:** $200 million

**PRIVATE COMPANY**

- **2004 operating revenue:** $358 million
- **2004 operating expenses:** $305 million
- **2004 profit:** $53 million

**5.7 million**

Of 250 employees who worked on the port in 2004, 150 were software jobs. The port’s mission is to move containers, which, by some estimates, account for 40 million tons of shipping a year.

**The port chief** VIT General Manager Joseph A. Dort, former Gov. Gerald Baliles, and VPA Executive Director John S. Groseclose at the South Carolina Port Authority.

**The Virginia Port Authority**

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**THE POLITICS OF PAY**

Three of the six VIT board members — he declined later to say which — said they didn’t know — said they didn’t know — said they didn’t know how much top VIT officials made.

The port authority — saying VIT is a private company — turned down a Daily Press request for the Virginia Port Authority to name the VIT general manager because, a Virginia Port Authority lawyer said, that would be an unwarranted invasion of a Virginia International Terminal’s privacy — a private, competitive company.

Where they get their money

Virginia International Terminals is a privately owned company. It is one of six terminals overseen by the Virginia Port Authority, which oversees the state’s ports.

The port authority, its attorneys said, doesn’t know how much top VIT officials make, even though the port authority oversees the company.

The port authority’s attorney also said the Virginia Port Authority doesn’t have standing to ask about the salaries of high-level VIT officials, even though the port authority oversees the company.

Port chief says he doesn’t know about the salaries

Doumar further said that if the port had known about the salaries, “I would have prosecuted it.”

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