



At every corner of the city we could see port workers: stevedores, duckers and tallymen. They held the town together because it was the port. Santos' economy diversified and the industrialization of "Cubatão" altered the profile of some areas of the region. The Port had reached the twentieth century keeping the largest workforce in the region.

Globalization and the release of markets, based on the multifunctional activities of its human resources, caused a major restructuring of the labor market. In the wake of this current economic model, Law No. 8.630/93 redefined the role of the State and brought the decentralization of port management, privatization of services and the breakdown of the freelance work monopoly.

The changes promoted by the process of modernization of ports had become mandatory as well as the skilled workers. The Port Modernization Law, despite prevailing for more than 20 years, is almost unknown by a significant portion of the population.

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