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More than 266 million metric tons in manufactured products and commodities passed through the Houston-Galveston Customs District in '17. That figure represents a 10.0 percent increase over the previous year. Those shipments were valued at more than \$192 billion, a 19.1 percent increase over '16.

HOUSTON-GALVESTON CUSTOMS DISTRICT				
	Value - \$ Billions		Metric Tons - Millions	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
'17	109.2	83.0	160.9	105.5
'16	91.6	69.8	135.2	107.0
Δ value	+17.6	+13.2	+25.7	-1.5
Δ %	+19.2	+18.8	+19.0	-1.4

	Total Value	Total Tonnage
'17	192.2	266.3
'16	161.4	242.2
Δ value	+30.8	+24.2
Δ %	+19.1	+10.0

Source: WISERTrade from US Census Bureau data

Several factors have contributed to the growth in traffic.

- The global economy continues to expand, driving the demand for crude, refined products, chemicals, and industrial and electrical machinery that Houston produces and exports.
- Commodity prices have improved over the past few years, increasing the value of Houston exports.
- In December '15, Washington eliminated restrictions on exports of U.S. crude, and much of that crude now passes through Houston on its way to global markets.
- The deepening and widening of the Panama Canal has improved access of U.S. exporters to Asian markets and vice versa.

Houston ranked second in tonnage and seventh in value among U.S. customs districts.

BUSIEST U.S. CUSTOMS DISTRICTS – CY '17				
Value			Metric Tons	
Rank	District	\$ Billions	District	Millions
1	Los Angeles	431.4	New Orleans	270.6
2	New York	364.7	Houston	266.2
3	Laredo	303.4	Los Angeles	119.5
4	Detroit	263.7	Port Arthur	81.3
5	Chicago	223.8	New York	77.5
6	New Orleans	216.6	San Francisco	58.5
7	Houston	192.2	Philadelphia	57.6

Source: WISERTrade from US Census Bureau data

The region exported to 208 countries last year and received shipments from 181. Mexico remains the region's top trading partner, followed by China, Brazil, Germany and the Netherlands. Even Fiji and the Cook Islands received cargoes shipped from Houston.

TOP TRADING PARTNERS – CY '17*			
Houston/Galveston Customs District			
Rank	Country	\$ Billions	% of Total
1	Mexico	\$20.1	10.4%
2	China	18.8	9.8
3	Brazil	12.6	6.6
4	Germany	9.6	5.0
5	The Netherlands	8.6	4.5
6	South Korea	6.8	3.5
7	Japan	6.4	3.4
8	Saudi Arabia	5.7	2.9
9	United Kingdom	5.6	2.9
10	Colombia	5.1	2.7
Total Top 10		99.3	51.7
All Others		92.9	48.3
Total Trade		192.2	100.0

* Combined imports and exports

Source: WISERTrade from US Census Bureau data

The district handled goods and commodities from 95 different broad categories—everything from gasoline to live animals to cork. Five commodity groups account for 77 percent of the values of all *exports*: crude and refined products, chemicals, industrial machinery, plastics and electrical machinery. And five account for 63 percent of the values of all *imports*: crude and refined products, industrial machinery, iron and steel, vehicles and parts, and electrical machinery. The region's top 10 trading partners and top five commodities traded were unchanged from the previous year.

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