



GREATER HOUSTON
PARTNERSHIP

UPDATE



FOREIGN
TRADE

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The Houston-Galveston Customs District handled 289.2 million metric tons of goods and commodities in '18, a 9.0 percent increase over '17. Those shipments were valued at \$233.3 billion, up 21.5 percent from '17, which was the largest increase among the nation's 20 busiest districts.

HOUSTON-GALVESTON CUSTOMS DISTRICT		
	Value	Metric Tons
	\$ Billions	Millions
'18	233.3	289.2
'17	192.0	265.4
% Change	+21.5	+9.0

Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau data

Houston ranked first in tonnage and seventh in value among U.S. customs districts in '18. Houston and New Orleans have been the busiest two districts in tonnage for decades. Houston has held the top spot in seven of the past 10 years.

BUSIEST U.S. CUSTOMS DISTRICTS – '18				
Value			Metric Tons	
Rank	District	\$ Billions	District	Millions
1	Los Angeles	456.2	Houston	289.2
2	New York	392.9	New Orleans	281.5
3	Laredo	326.9	Los Angeles	121.6
4	Detroit	268.5	Port Arthur	89.6
5	Chicago	252.1	New York	80.5
6	New Orleans	238.0	Norfolk	60.7
7	Houston	233.3	San Francisco	60.0
8	Savannah	173.2	Philadelphia	53.4
9	Seattle	155.0	Columbia-Snake	52.4
10	Cleveland	153.0	Mobile	50.6

Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau data

Houston exported to 215 countries and imported from 195 in '18. Mexico remains the region's top trading partner, followed by China, Brazil, the Netherlands and South Korea. Even Kiribati and Palau, island

nations in the Micronesia region of the western Pacific Ocean, received cargoes shipped from Houston last year.

TOP TRADING PARTNERS – '18*			
Houston/Galveston Customs District			
Rank	Country	\$ Billions	% of Total
1	Mexico	24.6	10.5
2	China	20.3	8.7
3	Brazil	12.9	5.5
4	Netherlands	10.4	4.4
5	South Korea	10.3	4.4
6	Germany	9.7	4.1
7	Japan	9.5	4.1
8	United Kingdom	7.3	3.1
9	Italy	7.1	3.0
10	India	6.6	2.8
Total Top 10		118.6	50.8
All Others		114.7	49.2
Total Trade		233.3	100.0

* Combined imports and exports

Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau data

For the sixth year in a row, Houston exported more than it imported. Over the past six years, the value of Houston's exports increased 9.1 percent, while the value of imports decreased 24.6 percent. The decrease is primarily due to a drop in both the value and quantity of imported crude oil.

HOUSTON-GALVESTON CUSTOMS DISTRICT				
	Value - \$ Billions		Metric Tons - Millions	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
'18	140.5	92.7	195.0	94.1
'17	109.1	83.0	159.9	105.5
% Change	+28.8	+11.8	+22.0	-10.8

Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau data

The district handled goods and commodities from 97 trade categories in '18—everything from gasoline to live animals to cork. The top five exports, accounting for 81.8 percent of all exports by value, were crude and refined products, chemicals, industrial machinery, plastics and motor vehicles. The top five imports, accounting for 63.2 percent of all imports by value, were crude and refined products, industrial machinery, iron and steel, motor vehicles and chemicals.

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