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June 14, 2019

The Houston-Galveston Customs District handled 100.2 million metric tons of goods and commodities in the first four months of '19, a 5.9 percent increase over '18. These shipments were valued at \$75.7 billion, up 4.1 percent from '18.

HOUSTON-GALVESTON CUSTOMS DISTRICT		
	Value	Metric Tons
	\$ Billions	Millions
April '19 YTD	75.7	100.2
April '18 YTD	72.7	94.6
% Change	+4.1	+5.9

Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau data

Houston ranked first in tonnage and sixth in value among U.S. customs districts during the first four months of '19. 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 – APR '19 YTD				
Value			Metric Tons	
Rank	District	\$ Billions	District	Millions
1	Los Angeles	135.6	<b>Houston</b>	100.2
2	New York	124.2	New Orleans	84.0
3	Laredo	106.8	Los Angeles	38.6
4	Detroit	86.5	Port Arthur	30.0
5	Chicago	77.3	New York	26.8
6	<b>Houston</b>	75.7	San Francisco	19.8
7	New Orleans	72.3	Norfolk	17.9
8	Savannah	60.9	Philadelphia	17.3
9	Cleveland	48.8	Mobile	17.3
10	Seattle	47.5	Columbia-Snake	16.7

Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau data

Houston exported to 198 countries and imported from 172 during the first four months of '19. Mexico remains the region's top trading partner, followed by China, Brazil, India and the Netherlands. Even Kiribati, an island nation in the Micronesia region of the western Pacific Ocean, and Vanuatu, a South Pacific Ocean nation, received cargoes shipped from Houston this year.

TOP TRADING PARTNERS – APR '19 YTD*			
Houston/Galveston Customs District			
Rank	Country	\$ Billions	% of Total
1	Mexico	6.9	9.1
2	China	4.9	6.4
3	Brazil	4.4	5.8
4	India	4.1	5.4
5	Netherlands	4.0	5.3
6	South Korea	3.6	4.7
7	Germany	3.6	4.7
8	Japan	3.1	4.0
9	United Kingdom	2.8	3.7
10	Colombia	2.2	2.9
Total Top 10		39.5	52.2
All Others		36.2	47.8
<b>Total Trade</b>		<b>75.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Combined imports and exports

Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau data

Houston became a net exporter late in '13. Compared to the first four months of '18, exports increased in both volume and value in '19, driving the increase in overall value and weight. Imports remained unchanged in value but slipped 11.0 percent in weight.

HOUSTON-GALVESTON CUSTOMS DISTRICT				
	Value - \$ Billions		Metric Tons - Millions	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
April '19 YTD	47.1	28.5	72.4	27.7
April '18 YTD	44.0	28.7	63.5	31.2
% Change	+7.1	-0.5	+14.2	-11.0

Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau data

During the first four months of '19, the district handled goods and commodities from 97 trade categories—everything from gasoline to live animals to cork. The top five exports, accounting for 82.1 percent of all exports by value, were crude and refined products, chemicals, industrial machinery, plastics and motor vehicles. The top five imports, accounting for 61.3 percent of all imports by value, were crude and refined products, industrial machinery, iron and steel, motor vehicles and electric machinery.

*Prepared by Greater Houston Partnership Research Department*

Patrick Jankowski, CERP  
Senior Vice President, Research  
713-844-3616  
[pjankowski@houston.org](mailto:pjankowski@houston.org)

Melissa Verhoef, PhD  
Analyst, Research  
713-844-3653  
[mverhoef@houston.org](mailto:mverhoef@houston.org)