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*July 10, 2019*

The Houston-Galveston Customs District handled 126.3 million metric tons of goods and commodities in the first five months of '19, a 5.0 percent increase over '18. These shipments were valued at \$95.9 billion, up 2.8 percent from '18.

HOUSTON-GALVESTON CUSTOMS DISTRICT		
	Value	Metric Tons
	\$ Billions	Millions
May '19 YTD	95.9	126.3
May '18 YTD	93.3	120.3
% Change	+2.8	+5.0

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 five 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 – MAY '19 YTD				
Value			Metric Tons	
Rank	District	\$ Billions	District	Millions
1	Los Angeles	173.5	<b>Houston</b>	<b>126.3</b>
2	New York	157.5	New Orleans	105.8
3	Laredo	135.5	Los Angeles	48.3
4	Detroit	109.7	Port Arthur	38.4
5	Chicago	98.8	New York	34.4
6	<b>Houston</b>	<b>95.9</b>	San Francisco	25.1
7	New Orleans	91.5	Norfolk	22.4
8	Savannah	76.4	Mobile	22.1
9	Cleveland	61.4	Philadelphia	22.0
10	San Francisco	59.9	Columbia-Snake	20.3

Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau data

Houston exported to 202 countries and imported from 179 during the first five months of '19. Mexico remains the region's top trading partner, followed by China, Brazil, India and the Netherlands. Even Vanuatu, a South Pacific Ocean nation, and the Marshall Islands received cargoes shipped from Houston this year.

TOP TRADING PARTNERS – MAY '19 YTD*			
Houston/Galveston Customs District			
Rank	Country	\$ Billions	% of Total
1	Mexico	8.5	8.8
2	China	6.1	6.4
3	Brazil	5.6	5.9
4	India	5.0	5.3
5	Netherlands	4.9	5.1
6	Germany	4.5	4.7
7	South Korea	4.5	4.7
8	Japan	3.8	3.9
9	United Kingdom	3.7	3.9
10	Colombia	3.0	3.2
Total Top 10		49.7	51.8
All Others		46.3	48.2
<b>Total Trade</b>		<b>95.9</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 five 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 10.4 percent in weight.

HOUSTON-GALVESTON CUSTOMS DISTRICT				
	Value - \$ Billions		Metric Tons - Millions	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
May '19 YTD	59.6	36.3	91.0	35.3
May '18 YTD	56.7	36.6	80.9	39.3
% Change	+5.1	-0.7	+12.4	-10.4

Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau data

During the first five 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 82.2 percent of all exports by value, were crude and refined products, chemicals, industrial machinery, plastics and motor vehicles. The top five imports, accounting for 61.7 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)