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The Houston-Galveston Customs District handled 179.5 million metric tons of goods and commodities in the first seven months of '19, a 6.5 percent increase over the comparable period in '18. These shipments were valued at \$135.8 billion, up 1.5 percent from '18.

HOUSTON-GALVESTON CUSTOMS DISTRICT		
	Value	Metric Tons
	\$ Billions	Millions
July '19 YTD	135.8	179.5
July '18 YTD	133.8	168.5
% Change	+1.5	+6.5

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 seven 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 – JULY '19 YTD				
Value			Metric Tons	
Rank	District	\$ Billions	District	Millions
1	Los Angeles	248.5	Houston	179.5
2	New York	219.9	New Orleans	143.2
3	Laredo	190.6	Los Angeles	68.4
4	Detroit	153.2	Port Arthur	55.1
5	Chicago	143.0	New York	48.5
6	Houston	135.8	San Francisco	34.8
7	New Orleans	127.2	Norfolk	30.8
8	Savannah	105.7	Philadelphia	30.3
9	Cleveland	86.4	Mobile	30.2
10	San Francisco	82.6	Columbia-Snake	26.9

Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau data

Houston exported to 204 countries and imported from 184 during the first seven months of '19. Mexico remains the region's top trading partner, followed by China, Brazil, South Korea and the Netherlands. Even Vanuatu, a South Pacific Ocean nation, and the Marshall Islands received cargoes shipped from Houston this year.

TOP TRADING PARTNERS – JULY '19 YTD*			
Houston/Galveston Customs District			
Rank	Country	\$ Billions	% of Total
1	Mexico	12.2	9.0
2	China	8.7	6.4
3	Brazil	8.2	6.1
4	South Korea	6.9	5.1
5	Netherlands	6.7	4.9
6	India	6.5	4.8
7	Germany	6.1	4.5
8	Japan	5.2	3.8
9	United Kingdom	5.0	3.7
10	Colombia	4.4	3.2
Total Top 10		69.9	51.4
All Others		65.9	48.6
Total Trade		135.8	100.0

* Combined imports and exports

Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau data

Houston became a net exporter late in '13. Compared to the first seven months of '18, exports increased in both volume and value in '19, driving the increase in overall value and weight. Imports decreased by 2.4 percent in value and slipped 9.2 percent in weight.

HOUSTON-GALVESTON CUSTOMS DISTRICT				
	Value - \$ Billions		Metric Tons - Millions	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
July '19 YTD	84.0	51.7	128.8	50.7
July '18 YTD	80.8	53.0	112.7	55.9
% Change	+4.0	-2.4	+14.3	-9.2

Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau data

During the first seven 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 82.3 percent of all exports by value, were crude and refined products, chemicals, industrial machinery, plastics and motor vehicles. The top five imports, accounting for 61.8 percent of all imports by value, were crude and refined products, industrial machinery, iron and steel, motor vehicles and electric machinery.

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