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The Houston-Galveston Customs District handled 262.7 million metric tons of goods and commodities in the first 10 months of '19, an 9.7 percent increase over the comparable period in '18. These shipments were valued at \$196.1 billion, up 0.2 percent from '18.

HOUSTON-GALVESTON CUSTOMS DISTRICT		
	Value	Metric Tons
	\$ Billions	Millions
October '19 YTD	196.1	262.7
October '18 YTD	195.6	239.6
% Change	+0.2	+9.7

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 10 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 – OCTOBER '19 YTD				
Value			Metric Tons	
Rank	District	\$ Billions	District	Millions
1	Los Angeles	359.4	Houston	262.7
2	New York	317.5	New Orleans	201.0
3	Laredo	274.2	Los Angeles	97.1
4	Detroit	220.4	Port Arthur	75.4
5	Chicago	211.2	New York	69.0
6	Houston	196.1	San Francisco	49.9
7	New Orleans	182.2	Norfolk	43.5
8	Savannah	150.9	Mobile	41.9
9	Cleveland	126.8	Philadelphia	40.5
10	Seattle	119.3	Columbia-Snake	37.4

Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau data

Houston exported to 208 countries and imported from 191 during the first 10 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 – OCTOBER '19 YTD*			
Houston/Galveston Customs District			
Rank	Country	\$ Billions	% of Total
1	Mexico	17.7	9.0
2	China	12.9	6.6
3	Brazil	12.2	6.2
4	South Korea	10.8	5.5
5	Netherlands	9.8	5.0
6	India	8.7	4.4
7	Germany	8.5	4.3
8	Japan	7.4	3.8
9	United Kingdom	7.3	3.7
10	Colombia	5.9	3.0
Total Top 10		101.1	51.6
All Others		95.0	48.4
Total Trade		196.1	100.0

* Combined imports and exports (sums may not total due to rounding)

Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau data

Compared to the first 10 months of '18, exports increased in both volume and value in '19, driving the increase in overall value and weight. Imports decreased by 7.3 percent in value and slipped 11.7 percent in weight.

HOUSTON-GALVESTON CUSTOMS DISTRICT				
	Value - \$ Billions		Metric Tons - Millions	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
October '19 YTD	123.5	72.5	191.8	70.9
October '18 YTD	117.3	78.3	159.2	80.3
% Change	+5.3	-7.3	+20.5	-11.7

Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau data

During the first 10 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 82.5 percent of all exports by value, were crude and refined products, organic chemicals, industrial machinery, plastics and motor vehicles. The top five imports, accounting for 60.9 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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