

The Partnership sends updates for the most important economic indicators each month. If you would like to opt-in to receive these updates, please click [here](#).

For the latest data, click [here](#).

January 10, 2020

The Houston-Galveston Customs District handled 289.1 million metric tons of goods and commodities in the first 11 months of '19, an 9.8 percent increase over the comparable period in '18. These shipments were valued at \$215.5 billion, up 0.3 percent from '18.

HOUSTON-GALVESTON CUSTOMS DISTRICT		
	Value	Metric Tons
	\$ Billions	Millions
November '19 YTD	215.5	289.1
November '18 YTD	215.0	263.3
% Change	+0.3	+9.8

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 11 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 – NOVEMBER '19 YTD				
Value			Metric Tons	
Rank	District	\$ Billions	District	Millions
1	Los Angeles	394.5	Houston	289.1
2	New York	349.5	New Orleans	220.5
3	Laredo	300.6	Los Angeles	106.2
4	Detroit	241.7	Port Arthur	83.4
5	Chicago	232.6	New York	75.2
6	Houston	215.5	San Francisco	54.3
7	New Orleans	200.6	Norfolk	47.9
8	Savannah	165.5	Mobile	45.7
9	Cleveland	139.1	Philadelphia	43.5
10	Seattle	130.5	Columbia-Snake	41.2

Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau data

Houston exported to 210 countries and imported from 191 during the first 11 months of '19. Mexico remains the region's top trading partner, followed by Brazil, China, South Korea and the Netherlands. Even Kiribati, a country in the central Pacific Ocean, and the Marshall Islands received cargoes shipped from Houston this year.

TOP TRADING PARTNERS – NOVEMBER '19 YTD*			
Houston/Galveston Customs District			
Rank	Country	\$ Billions	% of Total
1	Mexico	19.7	9.2
2	Brazil	13.9	6.4
3	China	13.8	6.4
4	South Korea	12.0	5.5
5	Netherlands	10.7	4.9
6	India	9.4	4.4
7	Germany	9.3	4.3
8	Japan	8.3	3.9
9	United Kingdom	8.2	3.8
10	Colombia	6.4	3.0
Total Top 10		111.7	51.8
All Others		103.9	48.2
Total Trade		215.5	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 11 months of '18, exports increased in both volume and value in '19, driving the increase in overall value and weight. Imports decreased by 8.1 percent in value and slipped 11.7 percent in weight.

HOUSTON-GALVESTON CUSTOMS DISTRICT				
	Value - \$ Billions		Metric Tons - Millions	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
November '19 YTD	137.0	78.6	212.1	77.0
November '18 YTD	129.5	85.5	176.2	87.2
% Change	+5.8	-8.1	+20.4	-11.7

Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau data

During the first 11 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 82.6 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.

Prepared by Greater Houston Partnership Research Department

Berina Suljic Cologlu
Analyst, Research
713-844-3653
bsuljic@houston.org

Patrick Jankowski, CERP
Senior Vice President, Research
713-844-3616
pjankowski@houston.org