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May 14, 2020

The Houston-Galveston Customs District handled 93.6 million metric tons of goods and commodities in the third month of '20, a 26.5 percent increase over the comparable period in '19. These shipments were valued at \$59.2 billion, up 7.3 percent from '19. Total trade did not go down in March despite the restrictions due to the coronavirus. Individual trade with different countries, however, was impacted to various extents.

HOUSTON-GALVESTON CUSTOMS DISTRICT		
	Value	Metric Tons
	\$ Billions	Millions
March '20 YTD	59.2	93.6
March '19 YTD	55.2	74.0
% Change	+7.3	+26.5

Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau data

Houston ranked first in tonnage and fifth in value among U.S. customs districts during March of '20. Houston and New Orleans have been the busiest two districts in tonnage for decades. Houston has held the top spot in nine of the past 12 years.

BUSIEST U.S. CUSTOMS DISTRICTS – MARCH '20 YTD				
Value			Metric Tons	
Rank	District	\$ Billions	District	Millions
1	New York	90.9	Houston	93.6
2	Los Angeles	88.9	New Orleans	54.2
3	Laredo	78.9	Los Angeles	25.2
4	Detroit	61.7	Port Arthur	25.1
5	Houston	59.2	New York	16.4
6	Chicago	58.7	San Francisco	13.9
7	New Orleans	50.9	Norfolk	12.9
8	Savannah	42.7	Mobile	11.9
9	Cleveland	36.6	Columbia-Snake	10.2
10	San Francisco	33.8	Philadelphia	10.0

Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau data

Houston exported to 189 countries and imported from 167 during the first three month of '20. Mexico remains the region's top trading partner, followed by Brazil, the Netherlands, South Korea and China. As a consequence of economic slowdown caused by the coronavirus, China was pushed down all the way to fifth place with Germany and United Kingdom following closely.

TOP TRADING PARTNERS – MARCH '20 YTD*			
Houston/Galveston Customs District			
Rank	Country	\$ Billions	% of Total
1	Mexico	5.1	8.5
2	Brazil	3.5	5.9
3	Netherlands	3.3	5.6
4	South Korea	3.2	5.4
5	China	2.7	4.6
6	Germany	2.7	4.5
7	United Kingdom	2.6	4.3
8	Japan	2.3	3.9
9	India	2.2	3.8
10	Colombia	1.9	3.2
Total Top 10		29.4	49.7
All Others		29.8	50.3
Total Trade		59.2	100.0

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

Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau data

Compared to March '19, exports increased in both volume and value in '20, driving the increase in overall value and weight. Imports decreased by 8.2 percent in value and slipped 2.3 percent in weight.

HOUSTON-GALVESTON CUSTOMS DISTRICT				
	Value - \$ Billions		Metric Tons - Millions	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
March '20 YTD	40.5	18.8	73.1	20.5
March '19 YTD	34.8	20.4	54.0	20.0
% Change	+16.3	-8.2	+35.4	-2.3

Source: WISERTrade from U.S. Census Bureau data

During the first three months of '20, the district handled goods and commodities from 97 trade categories—everything from gasoline to live animals to cork. The top five exports, accounting for 84.3 percent of all exports by value, were crude and refined products, organic chemicals, plastics, industrial machinery and motor vehicles. The top five imports, accounting for 61.0 percent of all imports by value, were crude and refined products, industrial machinery, motor vehicles, iron and steel and electric machinery.

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