



For Immediate Release
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Port Houston Volume Off Pace of Record 2019

Growth Impacted by COVID-19

HOUSTON – Container activity at Port Houston, the largest container port on the United States Gulf Coast, continued slowing in June due to the coronavirus outbreak and was down 16%. Container activity for the entire first half of the year is down 2% compared to 2019, which was a record year.

Port Houston handled 210,932 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in June, compared to June of 2019, when a total of 251,488 TEUs were handled. For the full year so far, Port Houston has handled 1,427,809 TEUs, compared to the 1,461,409 TEUs for the same period in 2019.

Total tonnage for June was down 7%, with steel, breakbulk and autos all down compared to June of last year, although grain and bulk cargo trade lanes showed increases.

The slowdown is not surprising given the impact the global pandemic has had on economies around the world.

“It is impossible to predict at this point how long these trends will continue,” Executive Director Roger Guenther said. “However, we continue to plan for the future. I am confident that our resilient economy, and the cargo exported and imported, will rebound quickly in our region when the pandemic begins to ease.”

Port Houston continues to develop the necessary infrastructure to meet or exceed customer needs. In April, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed off on the Houston Ship Channel Expansion - Project 11 and congressional approval is anticipated this year that would allow for construction to start in 2021. Also, in June Port Houston was awarded a nearly \$80 million INFRA grant to help restore and improve wharf and yard space at its Barbour's Cut Container Terminal.

About Port Houston

For more than 100 years, Port Houston has owned and operated the public wharves and terminals of the greater Port of Houston – the nation's largest port for the foreign waterborne tonnage and an essential economic engine for the Houston region, the state of Texas and the U.S. nation. The Port of Houston supports the creation of nearly 1.35 million jobs in Texas and 3.2 million jobs nationwide, and economic activity totaling \$339 billion in Texas – 20.6 percent of Texas' total gross domestic product (GDP) – and total of \$801.9 billion in economic impact across the nation. For more information, visit the website at PortHouston.com.

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