



For Immediate Release
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Port Houston Container Volumes Gaining Strength **Most stable numbers since pandemic began**

HOUSTON – Port Houston’s container activity in August neared 2019’s record volume levels for the first time since the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the month of August Port Houston handled 248,630 TEUs, only 4% less than August of 2019 when a total of 259,110 TEUs were handled. This also reflects a 5.9% gain over July of this year, when Port Houston handled 234,737 TEUs. In fact, August shows a significant increase in container volume as compared to the previous several months. Declines in March through July ranged from 10% through 16%.

“We are hopeful for a strong rebound in the fourth quarter, and that this is the beginning of continued growth in our container TEUs,” said Port Houston Executive Director Roger Guenther. “Import containers have been strong and we’ve seen a large number of extra loaders this peak season as retailers in our region replenish inventories, and those extra loaders have helped balance the impact of blank sailings.”

“As we look ahead, we are ready for future growth,” Guenther said. “Port Houston’s fundamentals remain solid, there’s been strong activity in construction and expansion of e-commerce distribution centers that support imports and also resin packaging capacity to support exports. For example, this summer, Frontier Logistics completed a half million square foot, rail-served warehouse adjacent to Barbours Cut Container terminal, which is another boost to our regional manufacturing base.”

Total tonnage at Port Houston in the month of August was down 7%, with steel, breakbulk cargo and autos all down compared to August of last year, although grain and bulk cargo again showed increases, as they did in previous months.

For the first six months of this year, container TEUs at Port Houston, the 6th largest container port in the United States, declined just 2.3% compared to the same period last year, according to Port Houston records. Data from PIERS, a leading provider of import/export data, indicated that Port Houston had the smallest decline of the top 10 container ports in the United States.

“Houston has faced a number of challenges over the years,” said Guenther. “Whether it’s a hurricane, a recession, or a pandemic, our region is resilient. We have always emerged strong and I feel confident that this time will be no different.”

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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