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Port Houston Record January for Containers Exports, new resin capacity, and refrigerated cargo support continued growth



Port Houston's hybrid-electric RTGs working at Barbours Cut Container Terminal.

HOUSTON — Port Houston handled 370,034 TEUs in January, the biggest January container volume on record and a 4% increase from the same month last year.

The increase in containers was driven by gains in both loaded imports and loaded exports moving through the Houston Ship Channel, with each up 5% compared to January last year. Import volumes remained steady across multiple sectors, while export growth continued to be led by petrochemical products and resins that make up a significant share of outbound containers.

Port Houston handles about 60% of U.S. resin exports, and that share is expected to grow as additional packaging capacity comes online. Phase I of Packwell's new 725,000-square-foot resin packaging facility

near Port Houston's Bayport Container Terminal was recently completed. The facility features direct rail access to unload hopper cars and includes state-of-the-art, high-speed packaging equipment, along with warehousing and transload capabilities adjacent to the marine terminal complex. The added capacity is expected to reduce costs and strengthen connectivity to Port Houston's global network of carrier services.

In addition to growth in resin exports, refrigerated imports and exports moving through Port Houston are also trending upward. Refrigerated container traffic at the Port rose 13% in 2025, supported by established cold-chain infrastructure and U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) cold-treatment certification. This approval allows Port Houston to receive shipments that complete the prescribed cold-treatment process while in transit, improving supply chain efficiency and expanding access to key perishable commodities.

"We're seeing solid demand across both of our public container terminals and a wide range of cargo moving through the Houston gateway. That demand is showing up across our operations, including a record single-day total of 16,438 truck transactions at our container terminals in January," said Charlie Jenkins, CEO of Port Houston. "Vessel movements along the Houston Ship Channel are also off to a steady start this year, with arrivals up 2%."

Elsewhere across the Port's public terminals, cargo performance was mixed. Steel imports declined 35% to 213,653 short tons in January, reflecting broader trends tied to lower drilling activity as measured by the Baker Hughes rig count. General cargo volumes increased 27% in January. Across all cargo categories, Port Houston handled 4,546,589 short tons for the month, a 6% increase compared to January last year.

About Port Houston

For more than 100 years, Port Houston has owned and operated the eight public wharves and terminals along the Houston Ship Channel, including the area's largest breakbulk facility and two of the most efficient container terminals in the country. Port Houston is the advocate and a strategic leader for the Channel. The Houston Ship Channel complex and its more than 200 private and eight public terminals is the nation's largest port for waterborne tonnage and an essential economic engine for the Houston region, the state of Texas, and the U.S. The Port of Houston supports 1.54 million jobs in Texas and 3.37 million jobs nationwide, and economic activity totaling \$439 billion in Texas – nearly 20 percent of Texas' total gross domestic product (GDP) – and \$906 billion in economic impact across the nation. For more information, visit the website at PortHouston.com.

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