



**PORT HOUSTON™**

## Houston Ship Channel Region Monthly Trade & Market Report

Latest insights on cargo activity, vessel traffic, and regional trade performance.

HOUSTON – June 25, 2026 – Activity along the Houston Ship Channel continues to strengthen America’s energy competitiveness and Port Houston’s public terminals record best monthly container volumes since last summer.

“The Houston Ship Channel region is where American energy production meets global demand,” said Charlie Jenkins, CEO of Port Houston. “As our trading partners around the world continue to rely on U.S. energy exports, the Houston Ship Channel is delivering the capacity, reliability, and scale needed to keep those supply chains moving. The strong growth we are seeing in exports reflects years of investment across the region, including the Houston Ship Channel Expansion, known as Project 11, and the strength of an integrated energy supply chain that connects American producers to global markets.”

### Key Takeaways

- Strong demand for U.S. energy products drove export growth through the Houston Ship Channel region, with crude oil export tonnage increasing 35% and refined product export tonnage increasing 29% through April.
- In May, Port Houston’s container terminals recorded their largest monthly volumes since July 2025. Loaded imports at the container terminals also reached their highest monthly volume since July 2025, signaling continued cargo demand.
- Steel import volumes reached their highest monthly level since August 2025, potentially signaling improving activity despite remaining below prior-year levels.

### Houston Ship Channel Region – April 2026

Source: U.S. Census Bureau data released June 9, 2026

Tonnage (Short Tons)	April 2026	April 2025	Change %	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	Change %
Export	19,841,547	15,417,031	↑ 28%	73,074,993	60,267,062	↑ 21%
Import	4,947,827	4,793,535	↑ 3%	16,731,133	18,214,771	↓ 8%
Total Tonnage	24,789,374	20,210,566	↑ 23%	89,806,127	78,481,832	↑ 14%



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### Houston Ship Channel Vessel Call Activity – May 2026

Source: Greater Houston Port Bureau's Marine Exchange of Texas released June 3, 2026

Vessel Traffic	May 2026	May 2025	Change %	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	Change %
Total Deep Draft Transits	1,649	1,490	↑ 11%	7,777	7,271	↑ 7%
Total Barge Transits	17,737	17,662	0%	92,082	87,208	↑ 6%

### Port Houston Public Terminals Performance – May 2026

Source: Port Houston

Cargo Category	May 2026	May 2025	Change %	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	Change %
Loaded Imports (TEUs)	188,276	166,005	↑ 13%	852,570	824,383	↑ 3%
Loaded Exports (TEUs)	134,934	132,900	↑ 2%	669,956	670,238	0%
Total Containers (TEUs)	398,322	381,640	↑ 4%	1,839,511	1,837,813	0%
Steel Imports (Tons)	390,302	420,610	↓ 7%	1,438,533	1,893,574	↓ 24%
Steel (Tons)	424,288	460,011	↓ 8%	1,522,579	1,984,661	↓ 23%
General Cargo (Tons)	30,262	82,261	↓ 63%	553,807	427,692	↑ 29%
Total Tonnage (Tons)	4,966,414	4,853,900	↑ 2%	23,522,919	22,940,997	↑ 3%

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#### 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](http://PortHouston.com).

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