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Port Houston annual TEUs set record with 15 percent growth **Total cargo tonnage at Port Houston grew by 11 percent in 2021**



HOUSTON – Port Houston shattered records and concluded 2021 on a dynamic note of growth with total cargo tonnage reaching nearly 52 million tons. Previously, the highest measured total cargo tonnage was 48.2 million tons in 2019.

Between March and December, container volume increased by double digits. Port Houston processed a record nearly 3.5 million TEUs for the entirety of 2021. Preliminary unaudited statistics show the 2021 growth to be a 15 percent increase compared to 2020 when Port Houston’s container TEUs surpassed the 3 million milestone for the first time.

The Port Houston team demonstrated note-worthy efficiency while handling the increased cargo. Truck turn times averaged less than 50 minutes at Port Houston during the final month of 2021. More than 13,000 gate transactions were completed in a single day in late December.

“Port Houston is not only a port authority. We are also the marine terminal operator of our container facilities. Our long-standing strategy of building capacity in front of demand and investing into our terminals and our people is demonstrating results,” Port Houston Executive Director Roger Guenther said.

Imports are a driving factor for a majority of the growth. In December alone, Port Houston handled 303,204 TEUs, which is a ten percent increase compared to December 2020. Data shows 148,301 TEUs account for loaded imports and 90,660 TEUs represent loaded exports for the month of December.

The Houston region is experiencing a boom in distribution center development with 5 million square feet of warehouse space becoming operational in 2021 and 7.3 million under construction for delivery in 2022. Port Houston's growing list of direct services currently includes 21 weekly services, six of which are Asia-direct with two including a Vietnam call.

Port Houston's multipurpose facilities bounced back competitively in 2021. Steel imports saw a noticeable rebound in the third quarter and continued to climb with a subsequent 93 percent growth in the final month of the year. Steel imports saw an overall 52 percent increase when compared to 2020. Bagged goods, auto imports, lumber and wind power equipment all demonstrated increases from the previous calendar year.

"We are focused on accelerating expansion of our infrastructure and working with the ILA and our other partners to continue to provide world-class service to our customers and be a major force in the global supply chain," Guenther said.

Three new neo-Panamax STS cranes are scheduled to arrive at Port Houston in February, which will add to an existing fleet of 26 STS cranes and 110 RTGs.

The Houston Ship Channel Expansion – Project 11 is underway as well. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently released its FY22 Workplan for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. It includes \$142,515,000 for the federal share for construction of segment 3 of this vital infrastructure project.

About Port Houston

For more than 100 years, Port Houston has owned and operated the 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 public and private terminals, collectively known as the Port of Houston, 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 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 \$801.9 billion in economic impact across the nation. For more information, visit the website at PortHouston.com.

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