Moving the Goods, Fueling the Economy

The top five commodities by tonnage moving on the Texas Multimodal Freight Network in the district are:

- Crude or refined petroleum products (348M Tons)
- Chemicals (157M Tons)
- Nonmetallic minerals (134M Tons)
- Waste or scrap materials (51M Tons)
- Clay, concrete, glass (42M Tons)

THE ECONOMIC ROLE OF FREIGHT IN THE HOUSTON DISTRICT

Overview

Employment in the Houston district totals 4.1 million jobs, worth $310 billion in income and $533 billion in Gross Regional Product. The distribution of raw materials, intermediate, and final goods to, from, and within the Houston district are important components of the Texas economy. Without freight, the Houston economy would come to a stop.

Jobs in the Freight Transportation Industry

The transportation and handling of freight in the Houston district generates 280,887 jobs. Trucking was the largest generator of jobs in freight transportation in the district, followed by Warehousing and Storage. Other freight modes and handling activities, including couriers and messengers, support activities to transportation and warehousing, the U.S. Postal Service, and rail, water, and pipeline transportation also have impacts in the region.

Direct Employment by Mode

Freight Infrastructure in the Houston District

- 1,490 Miles on the Texas Highway Freight Network
- Three major (Class I) railroad companies: BNSF Railway Company, Kansas City Southern Railway Company; and Union Pacific Railroad Company
- Four deep water ports, including Houston, Freeport, Galveston, and Texas City
- Two major cargo handling airports (IAH and HOU)
- Extensive pipeline network
- Shallow draft port facilities on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway
The information provided comes from the TxDOT Economic Role of Freight in Texas Study and represents year 2018.

Economic Importance of Freight in the Houston District

**Freight supports**

- 27% of district jobs
- or over 1 in 4 jobs

**Freight-supported jobs generate about**

- 40% of district wages

**Freight-dependent businesses generate about**

- 42% of district Gross Regional Product

Freight Moving in the Houston District

883 million tons of freight worth $758 billion travelled on the district’s multimodal freight network. Inbound freight represents imports into the Houston District; outbound freight represents exports from the Houston District; and, within movements represents freight that both originate and terminate in the district.

**Movement in Tons and Value**

- **Million Tons**
  - 239 Within
  - 361 Inbound
  - 283 Outbound
- **Billions of $**
  - $176 Within
  - $287 Inbound
  - $295 Outbound

Economic Impact of Freight in the Houston District

**Annual Impact of Direct Freight Employment**

- 706,000 jobs
- $75 billion in income
- $83 billion in Gross Regional Product

**Total Annual Economic Impact of Freight**

(Total impacts of freight employment plus direct impacts of freight-dependent industries)

- 1.2 million jobs
- $123 billion in income
- $225 billion in Gross Regional Product
- $34 billion in Federal, state and local tax revenue