

# Port of Houston: The Nation's Largest Port Has Big Plans to Level Up

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and its logistical fallout, the Port of Houston was largely known for processing bulk shipments of liquid products. As sheer volume overcame more popular gateways into the United States, particularly L.A.-Long Beach, Houston stepped up to process West Coast spillover and keep the supply chain intact. The Gulf Coast port is capitalizing on its new position as a proven processor of high-volume containerized trade with ongoing expansion projects and a renewed focus on customer service.

Starting in 2020, the federal government granted \$900 million to the ports of Houston and Tampa Bay as part of the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) program. Since then, they've added three new ship-to-shore cranes capable of handling neo-panamax vessels, developed plans to totally revamp the Barbours Cut Container Terminal, and began expanding the channel around the port with an operation called Project 11. Crane installation finished last year, and the additional projects are ongoing.

Regarding customer service, Houston and its representatives have been working with trucking providers to make cargo pickup windows as accessible as possible. On weekdays, both Barbours Cut and Bayport are operational between 6am and 7pm. A brand-new weekend window on Saturday between 8am and 5pm began in early June expanded overall availability and will be in effect for the foreseeable future.

“As longtime partners of the Port of Houston, OEC LLS and the larger OEC Group are unsurprised by these new developments,” explains Andrew Bower, Director of Sales for OEC Group's bulk liquid division. “They've been able to expand their containerized capabilities while remaining the primary port for processing bulk liquids. When discussing top-tier ports in the US, Houston is quickly becoming more of a competitor than an alternative.”

With the overall market continuing to experience congestion and potential slowdowns impending on the West Coast, Houston is expected to play a larger role in the United States' logistical landscape. Shippers looking to optimize routing strategies should consider securing space to Houston before available capacity is fully accounted for.

[Outlook 2022: Houston port pushes infrastructure plans to keep ahead of growth \(joc.com\)](#)

[Port Houston invests in infrastructure amid record year - Container News \(container-news.com\)](#)

[Ports of Houston and Tampa Bay Receive Federal Grants for Expansion \(maritime-executive.com\)](#)

[Biden administration proposes \\$75 million in port improvements for Houston-Galveston area - Houston Public Port of Houston News \(joc.com\)](#)