

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
MONDAY, JULY 14, 2008

**CONTACT: Matt Englehart/Seamus Kraft**  
202-482-3809

## **Houston Metro Area Ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> Among the Nation's Export Markets** *Mid-Year Data Emphasizes Positive Impact Exports Have on Metropolitan Economies*

**WASHINGTON** – Today the U.S. Commerce Department announced new data in a series that precisely measures merchandise export values for metropolitan areas. Through the first half of 2007, the Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown metropolitan area was the second largest export market in the United States, with sales in the global marketplace totaling \$29.9 billion. Twenty-four percent of Houston's merchandise exports go to NAFTA countries, plainly illustrating the economic value of open markets.

“Exports are powering the U.S. economy,” said U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez. “Opening new markets for Houston's exporters will further bolster the metropolitan area trade and support local jobs. In the first half of 2007, the benefit of existing free trade agreements on Houston's economy is clear having exported \$7.3 billion to Canada and Mexico, and \$817 million to Central America and the Dominican Republic.”

Across the United States, the top ten metropolitan areas posted total export sales of an impressive \$207 billion through the first half of 2007. These exports accounted for 37 percent of total U.S. exports over this period. The top ten markets include New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island; Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown; Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana; Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue; Detroit-Warren-Livonia; Chicago-Naperville-Joliet; San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara; Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach; Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington; and Boston-Cambridge-Quincy.

### **Key Houston Trade Facts:**

- The Houston metropolitan area exported \$29.9 billion worth of goods in the first half of 2007.
- The Houston metropolitan area accounted for 48 percent of Texas' merchandise exports in the first half of 2007.
- Mexico was the leading export destination for Houston's exports of goods in the first half of 2007. Other leading destinations were Canada and China.
- Chemicals was the top Houston export for the first half of 2007, accounting for \$10.4 billion, or 35 percent, of exported goods.
- Other top exports were machinery manufactures (\$5.9 billion, 20 percent), petroleum and coal products (\$5.2 billion, 17 percent), and computers and electronic products (\$3.0 billion, 10 percent).
- Nearly one-quarter (24 percent) of Houston's merchandise exports go to NAFTA countries.

## **Background**

The data series contains merchandise export values for 369 metropolitan areas. Service export values are not included in this series. Available for 2005, 2006, and now first half 2007, this data also contains metro area exports as a percent of the state total, where possible; product exports to individual countries for the 50 largest metropolitan areas; top global export product categories; and total exports to ten regional destinations.

For additional information and to view the complete data series and methodology, visit [www.trade.gov/metrodata](http://www.trade.gov/metrodata)

###