

# Glossary:

**GDP (Gross Domestic Product):** The total market value of all finished goods and services produced within a country or state's borders for a specific period of time.

**Petrochemical:** A substance obtained by refining and processing crude oil and natural gas. Petrochemical products include electronics, asphalt, renewable energy supplies, medicines, plastics, cosmetics, and cleaning products. 80% of revenue in the port is petrochemical-related.

**Breakbulk:** Non-containerized general cargo stored in boxes, bales, pallets, or other units to be loaded onto or discharged from ships or other forms of transportation. Examples include: iron, steel machinery, linerboard, and wood pulp.

**Port of Houston:** The collection of 272 terminals along parts of the Houston ship channel. The Port of Houston includes all terminals and businesses operating along the Houston ship channel and is a location, not an entity. The port is run by the United States Coast Guard and the US Army Corps of engineers.

**Houston Ship Channel:** The dredged waterway that ships pass through to get to the Port of Houston or privately-owned terminals.

**TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit):** A standard unit of measurement for containers aboard ships. Most containers seen are two TEUs or 40 feet long.

**Brownwater:** Refers to water close to shore, inland waterways, and rivers. Brownwater vessels are often smaller ships or barges that can operate in shallow water.

**Bluewater:** Refers to ocean-going ship traffic. These are larger ships that are better equipped to manage open ocean. Many of these are very large and need 40+ feet of water to move.

**Bollard Pull:** A unit of measurement for the towing or pushing power of a watercraft. It is measured as the force and tonnes created by a vessel under full power using a shore-mounted tow line and measurement device.

**Container:** A box made of aluminum, steel, or fiberglass used to transport cargo by ship, rail, truck, or barge. **Terminal:** The location where cargo would be loaded and unloaded from ships, trains, pipelines, etc. For example: a container terminal manages container ships. Petrochemical terminals manage oil tankers.

**RORO (Roll On, Roll Off):** Roll-on roll-off carriers are used to carry anything on wheels. Large doors fold down into ramps, allowing cars, trucks, farm equipment, tractors, etc., to drive onto the ship.

**Longshoreman/Stevedore:** Men and women who load and unload ships, trucks, and trains at the port. Stevedore refers to the owner of the equipment, while longshoreman refers to the employees or contractors hired to operate it.