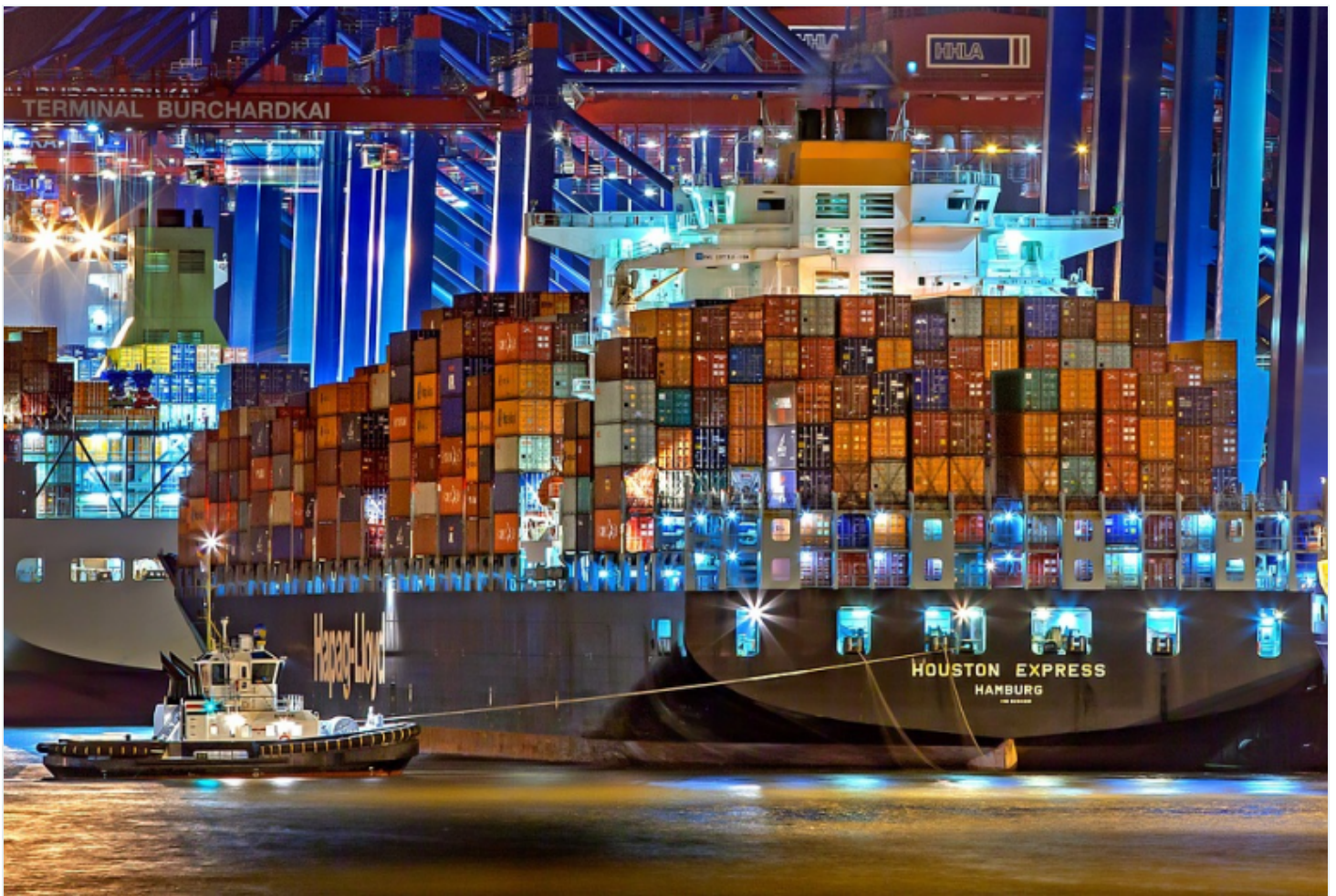


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seasonal patterns during the first few months of 2020, according to the Global...

Jan. 13, 2020



After a year of fluctuations driven by the uncertainty of the trade war with China, volume at the nation's major retail container ports is expected to return to its usual seasonal patterns during the first few months of 2020, according to the Global Port Tracker report released by the National Retail Federation and Hackett Associates.

"We'll be more confident after we see the Phase One agreement signed, but right now 2020 looks like it should be back to what used to be normal," NRF Vice President for Supply Chain and Customs Policy Jonathan Gold said. "We've been through a cycle

of imports surging ahead of expected tariff increases – some of which got delayed,

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wars.”

President Trump is scheduled to sign a “Phase One” [partial trade deal with China](#) on January 15. In announcing the deal, the administration said it would lower tariffs that took effect in September and canceled another round that was set to take effect December 15, but others remain in effect.

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scheduled January 1, 2019, tariff increase that was ultimately postponed.

While numbers for the full year are not yet final, estimates indicate that 2019 came in at 21.6 million TEU, a 0.9 percent decrease from 2018 but still the second-highest

year on record. Imports during 2018 hit a record 21.8 million TEU, partly due to

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