



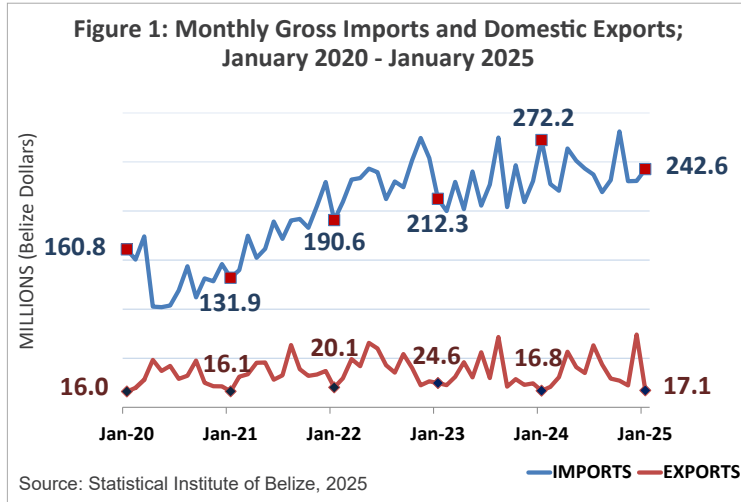
# ET EXTERNAL TRADE

## STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF BELIZE

### IMPORTS DOWN 10.9%, DOMESTIC EXPORTS UP 2.1% IN JANUARY 2025

#### IMPORTS

**January 2025:** Belize's total imports of goods for the month of January 2025 were valued at \$242.6 million. This represented a decrease of 10.9 percent or \$29.7 million from January 2024, when imports were valued at \$272.2 million (see Figure 1).



#### DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Most commodity categories recorded lower imports in January 2025, with 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' being the largest contributor to this decline. In contrast, 'Food and Live Animals' recorded the most significant increase for the month (see Figure 2).

##### Machinery and Transport Equipment

After leading the growth in imports throughout 2024, 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' went down sharply at the start of 2025. Imports in this category fell by \$28.5 million, from \$90.1 million in January 2024, when the purchase of a high-value industrial generator boosted imports for that month considerably, to \$61.6 million in January of 2025.

##### Mineral Fuels and Lubricants

The 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants' category declined by \$3.2 million, from \$31.7 million to \$28.5 million. This decrease was driven by lower world market prices for diesel fuel, along with reduced imports of Bunker C fuel and liquefied petroleum gas.

##### Chemical Products

Owing to decreased imports of fertilizers, the 'Chemical Products' category fell by \$1.7 million, from \$23.1 million in January 2024 to \$21.3 million in January 2025.

##### Manufactured Goods

Reduced purchases of metal structures, coupled with the absence of imported galvanized steel coils in January 2025, led to a decline in 'Manufactured Goods', from \$36.8 million to \$36 million.

##### Oils and Fats

'Oils and Fats' decreased from \$2.6 million in January 2024 to \$2.4 million in January 2025, the result mainly of reduced imports of cooking oils.

#### INCREASING CATEGORIES:

##### Food and Live Animals

The 'Food and Live Animals' category increased by \$3.8 million, from \$28.7 million in January 2024 to \$32.4 million in January 2025. This growth was attributed to higher imports of orange concentrate and various grocery items, including coffee.

##### Commercial Free Zones

Imports meant for the 'Commercial Free Zones' saw a \$0.6 million increase for the month, from \$29.9 million to \$30.5 million, reflecting higher imports of cigarettes and handbags.

##### Designated Processing Areas

Imports into the 'Designated Processing Areas' increased from \$2.1 million in January 2024 to \$2.5 million in January 2025, driven primarily by higher purchases of wood pulp.

#### DOMESTIC EXPORTS

**January 2025:** Total domestic exports for the month of January 2025 amounted to \$17.1 million, up slightly by 2.1 percent or \$0.3 million when compared to exports from January 2024, which were valued at \$16.8 million (see Figure 1).

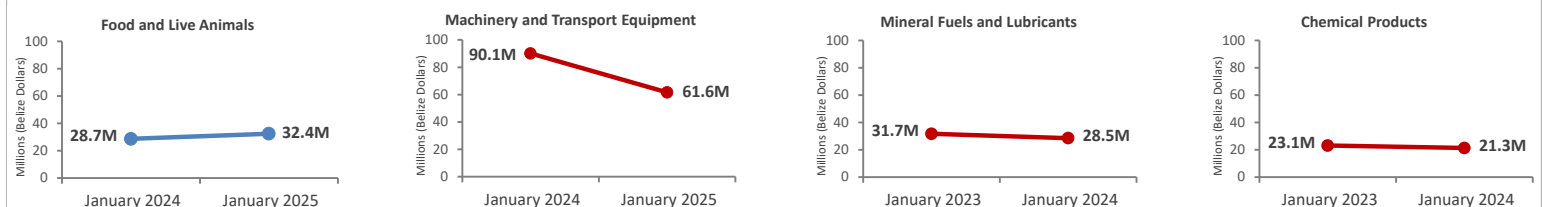
#### INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Marine exports had a strong start to the year, outperforming the country's other key exports. Revenues from this commodity rose by \$2.1 million, from \$1.7 million to \$3.9 million, the result of higher exports of lobster products. Meanwhile, earnings from citrus products more than doubled, increasing from \$0.4 million in January 2024 to \$1.1 million in January 2025, largely due to more favorable prices for orange concentrate (see Figure 3).

#### DECREASING CATEGORIES:

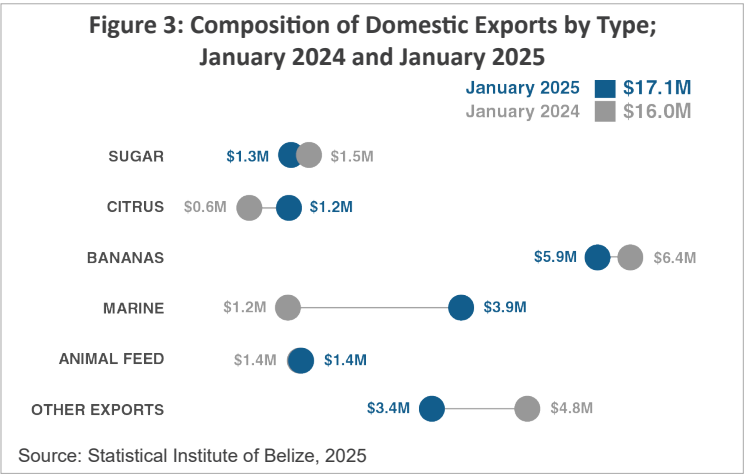
The absence of cattle and alcoholic beverage exports in January 2025 resulted in a \$1.8 million reduction in the 'Other' exports category, which was down from \$5.3 million in January of last year to \$3.5 million in January of this year. Additionally, earnings from both bananas and sugar declined slightly for the month. Banana exports fell by \$0.5 million, from \$6.4 million to \$5.9 million, while sugar exports decreased by \$0.3 million, from \$1.5 million in January 2024 to \$1.3 million in January 2025 (see Figure 3).

**Figure 2: Composition of Gross Imports by Type; January 2024 and January 2025**



**MAJOR DESTINATIONS:**

A notable increase in lobster exports to countries grouped together as 'Other,' resulted in a \$0.9 million boost in revenue from these markets, from \$0.1 million in January of last year to \$1 million in January of this year. Similarly, increased exports of conch to the United States of America led to a \$0.7 million rise in earnings from this country, from \$2.9 million to \$3.5 million (see Figure 4).



**Figure 4: Composition of Exports by Destination; January 2025 (Millions of BZ Dollars)**

