



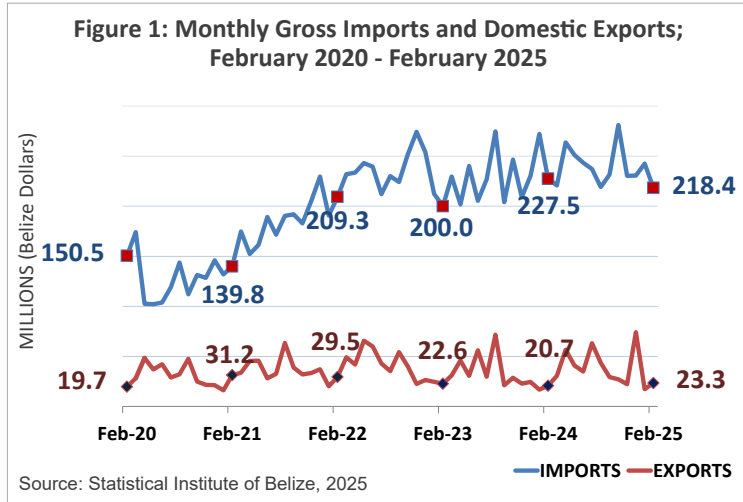
ET EXTERNAL TRADE

STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF BELIZE

IMPORTS DOWN 4%, DOMESTIC EXPORTS UP 12.3% IN FEBRUARY 2025

IMPORTS

February 2025: Belize's total imports of goods for the month of February 2025 were valued at \$218.4 million. This was a decrease of 4 percent or \$9.1 million from February 2024, when imports were valued at \$227.5 million (see Figure 1).



DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Among the trade commodity categories that contributed to the overall decline in the country's imports for the month, the most significant decrease was observed in the category of 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants', while 'Food and Live Animals' recorded the largest increase (see Figure 2).

Mineral Fuels and Lubricants

The 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants' category fell by a significant \$22.3 million, from \$45.8 million in February 2024 to \$23.5 million in February 2025. This decline was driven by a reduction in imports across all main fuel types, coupled with the fact that there were no imports of premium fuel in February of this year.

Other Manufactures

Purchases of goods classified as 'Other Manufactures', including items such as gaming machines, printed materials, and disposable gloves, increased by \$3.7 million during the month, from \$21 million to \$17.3 million.

Designated Processing Areas

Imports to the 'Designated Processing Areas' declined by \$1.1 million, from \$3.4 million in February 2024 to \$2.3 million in February 2025, as a result of reduced purchases of packaging and labeling equipment, glass and plastic bottles.

Chemical Products

The 'Chemical Products' category decreased by \$1 million, from \$22 million to \$21 million, due to reduced imports of vaccines and fertilizers.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Food and Live Animals

'Food and Live Animals' rose by \$11.2 million, from \$22.4 million in February 2024 to \$33.6 million in February 2025. This was attributed to higher imports of orange concentrate and various grocery items, including coffee and evaporated milk, during the month.

Beverages and Tobacco

'Beverages and Tobacco' also recorded an increase, rising by \$2 million from \$2.3 million to \$4.4 million, largely the result of boosted imports of alcoholic beverages and cigars.

Commercial Free Zone

Imports into the 'Commercial Free Zone' were up by \$1.9 million, from \$21.2 million in February 2024 to \$23.1 million in February 2025, driven by higher imports of tennis shoes and cigarettes.

Crude Materials

The 'Crude Materials' category increased from \$3.4 million to \$4.8 million, owing to higher imports of treated pine lumber and grass seeds.

Machinery and Transport Equipment

Due to the importation of an aluminum extrusion machine during the month, the 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' category recorded a \$1.1 million increase, from \$53.7 million in February of last year to \$54.8 million in February of this year.

Manufactured Goods

Similarly, purchases of 'Manufactured Goods' rose by \$1.1 million, from \$29.2 million to \$30.2 million, due to higher imports of glass bottles and metal doors.

FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THE YEAR:

Merchandise imports for the first two months of the year, January to February 2025, amounted to \$461 million. This represented a 7.8 percent or \$38.8 million decrease, from \$499.8 million during the same period of last year.

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

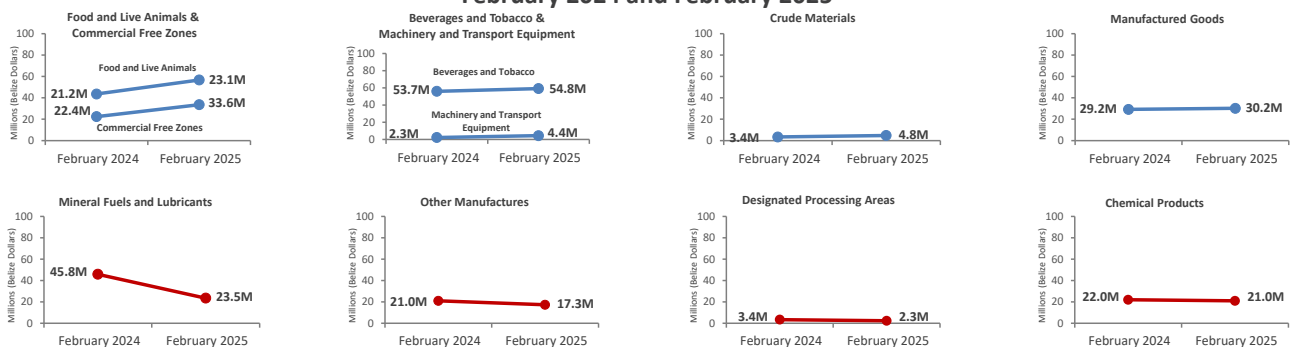
Machinery and Transport Equipment

'Machinery and Transport Equipment' recorded a sharp decline during the first two months of the year, with imports falling by \$27.4 million from \$143.8 million in 2024, when purchases were boosted by a high-value industrial generator, to \$116.4 million in 2025.

Mineral Fuels and Lubricants

The 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants' category was down by \$25.5 million, from \$77.4 million in 2024 to \$52 million in 2025. This was driven by decreased imports across all main fuel types, coupled with the fact that no premium fuel was imported during the first two months of 2025.

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



Other Manufactures

Decreased purchases of gaming machines, printed materials, and disposable gloves resulted in a \$3.7 million drop in the 'Other Manufactures' category, from \$37.1 million during the first two months of 2024 to \$33.4 million in the first two months of 2025.

Chemical Products

The 'Chemical Products' category fell by \$2.8 million, from \$45.1 million to \$42.3 million, on account of reduced imports of fertilizers and vaccines.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Food and Live Animals

As a result of heightened imports of orange concentrate and various food items, such as coffee and evaporated milk, the 'Food and Live Animals' category went up by \$14.9 million over the period, from \$51.1 million during the first two months in 2024 to \$66 million during the same period in 2025.

Commercial Free Zone

Imports into the 'Commercial Free Zone' were up by \$2.6 million, from \$51.1 million to \$53.6 million, owing to increased imports of cigarettes and tennis shoes.

Beverages and Tobacco

The 'Beverages and Tobacco' category rose by \$1.9 million, from \$9.5 million to \$11.5 million, mainly due to higher imports of cigarettes and alcoholic beverages.

Crude Materials

Purchases of 'Crude Materials' increased from \$7.4 million during the first two months of 2024 to \$8.6 million during the same period in 2025, the result of higher imports of treated pine lumber and used clothing.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS

February 2025: Total domestic exports for the month of February 2025 amounted to \$23.3 million. This was up by 12.3 percent or \$2.5 million when compared to exports for February 2024, which were valued at \$20.7 million (see Figure 1).

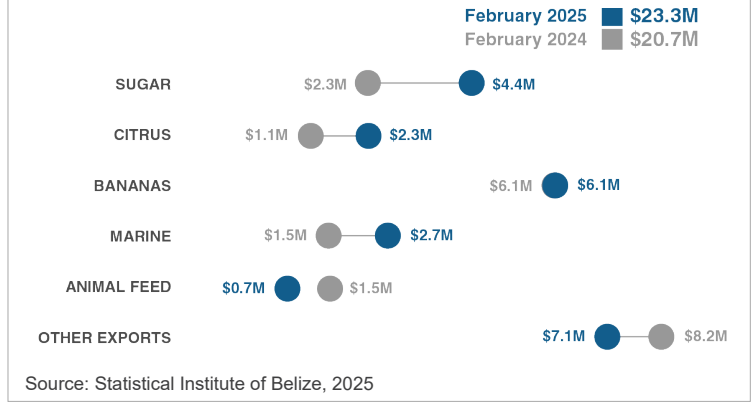
INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Several key industries recorded improved exports in February 2025, with sugar emerging as the leading export commodity for the month. Earnings from this product nearly doubled, from \$2.3 million in February 2024 to \$4.4 million in February 2025. Marine exports, including commodities such as whole lobsters and conch, increased from \$1.5 million to \$2.7 million during the month. Citrus products also rose substantially, from \$1.1 million in February 2024 to \$2.3 million in February 2025, driven by higher exports of orange concentrate at more favorable prices (see Figure 3). Additionally, molasses recorded revenues of \$1.1 million in February 2025, compared to the same month in the previous year when there were no exports of this commodity.

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Exports of products classified as 'Other' recorded a significant decline, as earnings fell from \$8.4 million in February 2024 to \$6.1 million in February 2025. This was primarily attributed to reduced exports of red kidney beans as well as pepper sauces. Furthermore, sales of animal feed declined by more than 50 percent or \$0.8 million, from \$1.5 million to \$0.7 million (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: Composition of Domestic Exports by Type; February 2024 and February 2025



MAJOR DESTINATIONS:

An increase in sugar exports to the United Kingdom during the month resulted in a significant increase in earnings from this region, from \$4.8 million in February of last year to \$6.2 million in February of this year. Total revenues from countries classified as the 'Other European Union' went up by \$1.1 million, from \$2.9 million to \$4 million, mostly on account of heightened exports of lobster products. Sales to CARICOM countries increased by \$0.6 million, from \$5.8 million in February 2024 to \$6.4 million in February 2025, due mainly to a rise in exports of orange concentrate to this region. On the other hand, reduced sales of animal feed to Central America resulted in a \$0.5 million decline in earnings from this region, from \$1.9 million to \$1.5 million (see Figure 4).

FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THE YEAR:

Merchandise exports for the period January to February 2025 totaled \$40.4 million, up 7.7 percent or \$3 million from the same period last year when exports totaled \$37.5 million.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Marine products saw the largest increase during this period, with earnings for the first two months of the year doubling from \$3.2 million in 2024 to \$6.6 million in 2025. This increase was primarily driven by higher exports of whole lobsters, lobster tails, and conch. Sugar revenues grew by nearly 50 percent or \$1.8 million during the first two months of the year, from \$3.8 million to \$5.7 million. Similarly, due to favorable prices for orange concentrate, earnings from citrus products increased from \$1.7 million to \$3.5 million. Finally, molasses exports were valued at \$1.1 million during the first two months of 2025, while there were no exports of this commodity recorded during the first two months of 2024.

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Conversely, exports categorized as 'Other' declined from \$13.7 million in 2024 to \$9.6 million in 2025, mainly due to decreased sales of commodities such as red kidney beans and pepper sauces. Additionally, a reduction in exported quantities of animal feed during the period led to a \$0.8 million drop in earnings from this product, from \$2.8 million in 2024 to \$2.1 million in 2025.

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

