

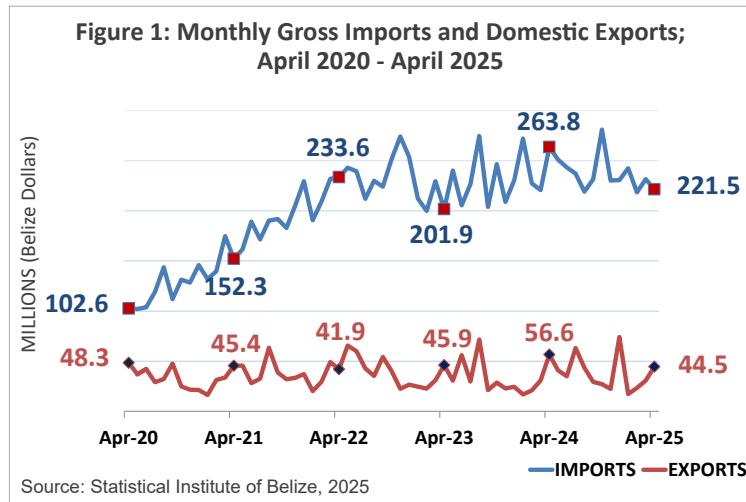


STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF BELIZE

IMPORTS DOWN 16%, DOMESTIC EXPORTS DOWN 21.9% IN APRIL 2025

IMPORTS

April 2025: Belize's total imports for the month of April 2025 were valued at \$221.5 million. This was a notable decrease of 16 percent or \$42.3 million from April 2024, when imports were valued at \$263.8 million (see Figure 1).



DECREASING CATEGORIES:

The overall drop in total imports was driven by reduced purchases across most commodity categories, with imports of goods for the 'Commercial Free Zone', 'Other Manufactures', and 'Food and Live Animals', in particular, falling significantly during the month (see Figure 2).

Commercial Free Zone

Goods destined for the 'Commercial Free Zone' declined by \$17.6 million, from \$43.5 million in April 2024 to \$25.8 million in April 2025, due to reduced imports of items such as tennis shoes, suitcases, and t-shirts.

Other Manufactures

Imports of goods classified as 'Other Manufactures' were also down for the month, from \$24.8 million to \$16.5 million, due to a decrease in purchases of metal furniture, medical equipment, and measuring instruments.

Food and Live Animals

With reduced imports of corn seeds, orange concentrate, and processed cheeses, the 'Food and Live Animals' category fell from \$31.3 million in April of last year to \$23 million in April of this year.

Machinery and Transport Equipment

Imports of 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' declined by \$5.7 million, from \$58.4 million to \$52.7 million, due to decreased purchases of solar inverters and street maintenance trucks.

Beverages and Tobacco

'Beverages and Tobacco' fell by \$2.5 million, from \$5.7 million in April 2024 to \$3.2 million in April 2025, due largely to reduced imports of cigarettes, whiskies, and beers.

Oils & Fats

The 'Oils & Fats' category was down by \$1.2 million, from \$3.9 to \$2.8 million, owing to a decline in imports of mainly cooking oils.

Mineral Fuels and Lubricants

'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants' declined by \$1.1 million, from \$35.3 million in April 2024 to \$34.2 million in April 2025. This was attributed to lower imports of kerosene fuel and liquified petroleum gas during the month.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Manufactured Goods

Purchases of 'Manufactured Goods' went up by \$1.7 million during the month, from \$32 million to \$33.7 million, on account of heightened imports of galvanized steel coils and galvalume steel coils.

Crude Material

The 'Crude Materials' category increased by \$0.8 million, from \$4 million in April 2024 to \$4.9 million in April 2025, largely due to higher imports of treated pine lumber.

FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THE YEAR:

Merchandise imports for the first four months, January to April of 2025, amounted to \$914.3 million. This represented a 7.1 percent or \$69.9 million decrease from \$984.3 million recorded in the same period last year.

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Machinery and Transport Equipment

During the first four months of 2024, two high-value items, an industrial generator and a gas turbine, were imported. In contrast, there were no such purchases recorded during the first four months of 2025. Consequently, the 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' category recorded a notable decrease of \$48 million, from \$270.8 million in 2024 to \$222.7 million in 2025.

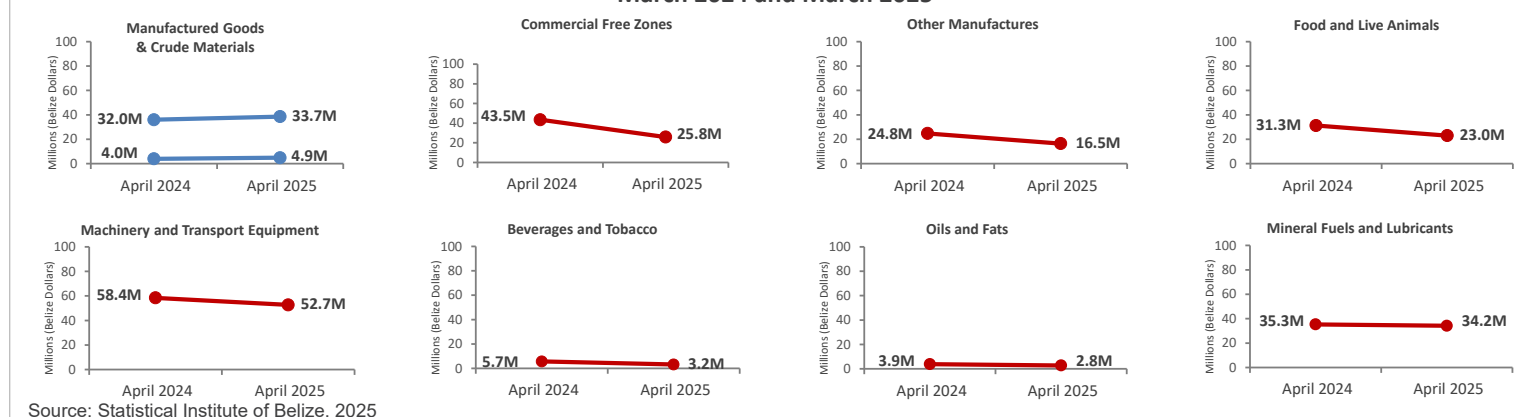
Commercial Free Zone

Imports into the 'Commercial Free Zone' declined by \$15 million, from \$119.4 million to \$104.4 million, due to decreased imports of suitcases, bags, and sports uniforms.

Mineral Fuels and Lubricants

The 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants' category fell by \$11.7 million, from \$141.5 million in 2024 to \$129.8 million in 2025, due to reduced imports of kerosene, premium and diesel fuels during the first four months of the year.

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



Other Manufactures

Purchases of goods classified as ‘Other Manufactures,’ including metal furniture, artificial flowers, and medical equipment, fell by \$9.5 million, from \$76.9 million in the first four months of last year to \$67.4 million in the first four months of this year.

Oils and Fats

With decreased imports of cooking oils, the ‘Oils and Fats’ category went down by \$1.4 million during the period, from \$12.8 million in 2024 to \$11.4 million in 2025.

Crude Material

The ‘Crude Materials’ category declined from \$17.6 million to \$17.1 million, driven by a reduction in imports of treated pine lumber. .

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Food and Live Animals

Imports of ‘Food and Live Animals’ were up for the first four months of the year when compared to the same period in 2024, rising from \$105.5 million to \$115.7 million, due to larger purchases of orange concentrate and grocery items including coffee.

Manufactured Goods

Purchases of ‘Manufactured Goods’ went up by \$5.6 million, from \$125.8 million in 2024 to \$131.4 million in 2025, due to heightened imports of white sheeting coils, glass bottles, and corrugated steel rods.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS

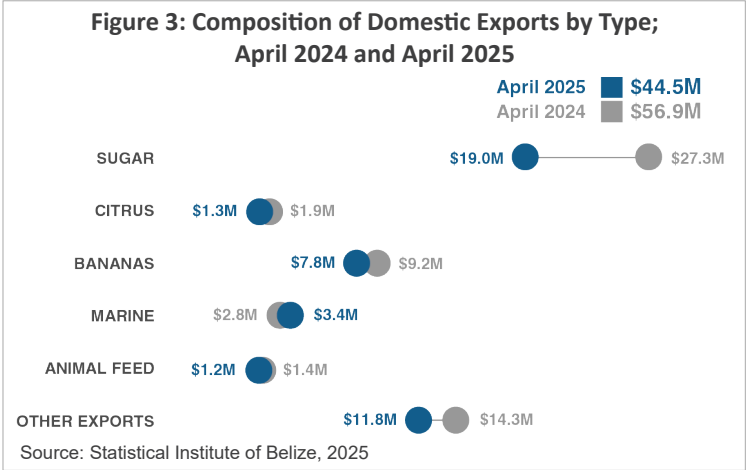
April 2025: Total domestic exports for April 2025 amounted to \$44.5 million, down 21.9 percent or \$12.4 million when compared to exports for April 2024, which were valued at \$56.9 million (see Figure 1).

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Although export revenues for April 2025 were the highest monthly figures recorded so far for this year, they were nonetheless lower than the earnings recorded for April of 2024, which were boosted by strong performances in key export products. Notwithstanding a bulk shipment of sugar in April this year, earnings from this product were down by more than 30 percent or \$8.3 million for the month, from \$27.3 million in April of last year to \$19 million in April of this year. Similarly, revenues from molasses dropped from \$5.4 million to \$2.3 million. Sales of bananas declined by \$1.4 million, from \$9.2 million to \$7.8 million, while earnings from citrus products decreased slightly from \$1.9 million in April 2024 to \$1.3 million in April 2025 (see Figure 3).

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Exports of red kidney beans, on the other hand, recorded the largest increase for the month, with revenues for this product up by \$1.2 million, from \$0.5 million in April 2024 to \$1.7 million in April 2025. Earnings from marine products also grew, rising by \$0.7 million from \$2.8 million to \$3.4 million, reflecting improved exports of lobster tails and conch (see Figure 3).



MAJOR DESTINATIONS:

As a result of the decline in sugar earnings for the month, revenues from key export markets were down when compared to the same month last year. Total export revenues from the United Kingdom, for example, dropped by \$6.6 million from \$28.5 million to \$21.9 million, while earnings from ‘Other European Union’ countries were down by \$0.7 million from \$5 million to \$4.2 million. Similarly, reduced sales of molasses during the month led to a \$5.2 million decrease in earnings from the United States of America, from \$10.1 million in April 2024 to \$5 million in April 2025. Sales to CARICOM countries were down by \$1.5 million, from \$7.8 million to \$6.4 million, due mainly to lower exports of sugar to this region (see Figure 4).

FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THE YEAR:

Merchandise exports for the period January to April 2025 totaled \$115.9 million, down 6.9 percent or \$8.6 million from the same period last year, when exports were valued at \$124.5 million.

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Earnings from sugar were down by a considerable \$7.6 million during the period, from \$36.6 million in 2024 to \$29 million in 2025, as lower quantities of this commodity were sold. Belize also exported less molasses during the first four months of the year, resulting in a \$6.9 million decrease in revenues from this product, from \$10.4 million to \$3.5 million. Exports of animal feed fell by \$1.8 million, from \$5.5 million in 2024 to \$3.7 million in 2025, while earnings from pepper sauces fell by \$1 million, from \$3.4 million to \$2.4 million.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Conversely, earnings from marine products grew by more than 50 percent or \$4.7 million, from \$9.3 million in 2024 to \$14 million in 2025, due to greater quantities of lobster tails, lobster meat, and conch being exported. Likewise, improved sales of orange concentrate led to a \$3.8 million rise in exports of citrus products, from \$4.4 million to \$8.1 million.

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



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2025