



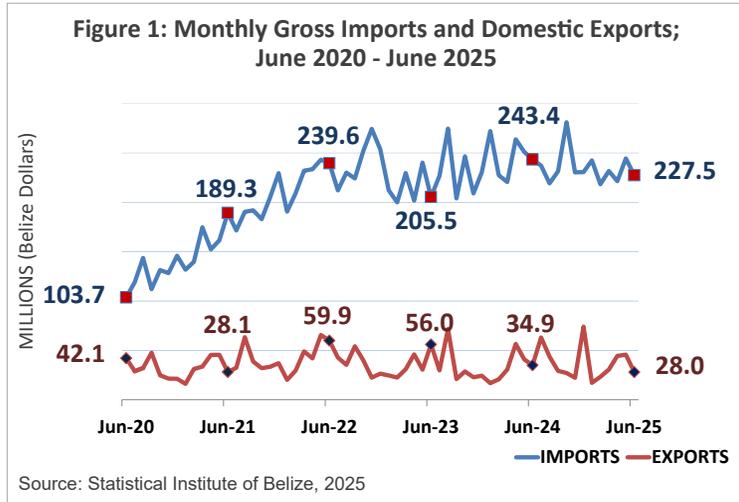
ET EXTERNAL TRADE

STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF BELIZE

IMPORTS DOWN 6.5%, DOMESTIC EXPORTS DOWN 20.2% IN JUNE 2025

IMPORTS

June 2025: Belize's total imports for the month of June 2025 were valued at \$227.5 million. This was a decrease of 6.5 percent or \$15.9 million from June 2024, when imports were valued at \$243.4 million (see Figure 1).



DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Several commodity categories recorded decreases during the month, with the most notable reductions seen in imports for the 'Commercial Free Zone', 'Food and Live Animals', and 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants'. Conversely, 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' recorded the most significant increase during the month (see Figure 2).

Commercial Free Zone

Merchandise imports to the 'Commercial Free Zone' declined by \$9 million, from \$29.1 million in June 2024 to \$20 million in June 2025, due to reduced imports of items such as cigarettes, bags, and t-shirts.

Food and Live Animals

With a decline in purchases of wheat, coffee, and orange concentrate, the 'Food and Live Animals' category fell from \$31 million in June of last year to \$23.2 million in June of this year.

Mineral Fuels and Lubricants

The 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants' category decreased by \$7.2 million, from \$40.2 million to \$33.1 million, largely attributed to lower imports of regular gasoline and kerosene, coupled with the absence of premium fuel imports during the month.

Designated Processing Areas

Imports to the 'Designated Processing Areas' contracted by \$1.2 million, from \$2.9 million in June 2024 to \$1.7 million in June 2025, the result of reduced purchases of chemical wood pulp and shrimp feed.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Machinery and Transport Equipment

The 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' category was up by \$4.1 million, from \$53.4 million to \$57.4 million, driven by higher purchases of boats and yachts, networking equipment and heavy-duty trucks.

Other Manufactures

Increased purchases of electricity meters resulted in a \$2.8 million rise in the 'Other Manufactures' category, from \$18.3 million to \$21.1 million.

Chemical Products

An increase in imports of fertilizers led to a \$2.5 million rise in the 'Chemical Products' category, from \$25.2 million in June 2024 to \$27.7 million in June 2025.

FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE YEAR:

Merchandise imports for the six months, January to June 2025, amounted to \$1.386 billion, representing a 6.3 percent or \$92.6 million decrease from \$1.479 billion recorded in the same period last year.

Machinery and Transport Equipment

During the first six months of last year, a number of high-value imports, including an industrial generator, a gas turbine, and four-cylinder vehicles, led to a significant increase in the 'Machinery & Transport Equipment' category. For the first six months of 2025, however, there were no such high-value purchases recorded, resulting in a substantial decline of \$45.1 million within this category, from \$381.2 million in 2024 to \$336.2 million in 2025.

Mineral Fuels and Lubricants

'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants' declined by \$32.5 million during the period, from \$231.5 million to \$199 million. This was largely due to reduced quantities of kerosene, regular and premium fuels being imported, coupled with lower world market prices across all major types of fuel.

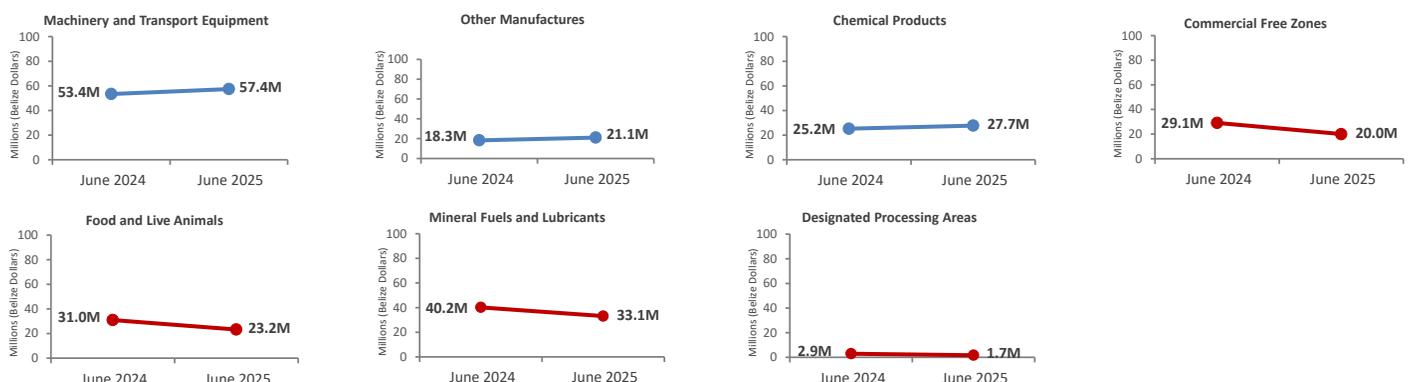
Commercial Free Zone

Imports meant for the 'Commercial Free Zone' were down by a considerable \$21.8 million, from \$168.9 million in 2024 to \$147.1 million in 2025, as the country bought fewer handbags, suitcases, and t-shirts.

Other Manufactures

A decline in purchases of metal furniture and prefabricated metal structures led to a \$4 million decrease in the 'Other Manufactures' category, from \$111.5 million during the first six months of 2024 to \$107.5 million in the first six months of 2025.

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



Oils & Fats

The 'Oils & Fats' category was down by \$2.6 million, from \$19.3 million to \$16.6 million, mainly owing to a decline in importation of cooking oils.

Designated Processing Areas

Imports to the 'Designated Processing Areas' fell by \$2 million, from \$17.3 million in 2024 to \$15.3 million in 2025, the result of reduced purchases of glass jars, printed labels, and European oak.

Beverages and Tobacco

The category of 'Beverages and Tobacco' was down by \$1.9 million for the first six months of this year, from \$27.7 million to \$25.8 million, due largely to reduced imports of wines, whiskies, and tequilas when compared to the same period in 2025.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Manufactured Goods

Purchases of 'Manufactured Goods' went up by \$13.7 million during the period, from \$191.6 million to \$205.3 million, on account of heightened imports of galvanized steel coils, metal cylinders, and roofing coils.

Food and Live Animals

Due to increased imports of orange concentrate, powdered milks, and biscuits, the 'Food and Live Animals' category went up by \$2.6 million over the period, from \$165.4 million during the first six months in 2024 to \$168 million during the same period in 2025.

Chemical Products

The 'Chemical Products' category rose by \$1.3 million during the period, from \$134.6 million in 2024 to \$135.9 million in 2025, attributed to heightened imports of fertilizers.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS

June 2025: Total domestic exports for June 2025 amounted to \$28 million, down by 20.2 percent or \$7.1 million when compared to exports for June 2024, which were valued at \$35.1 million (see Figure 1).

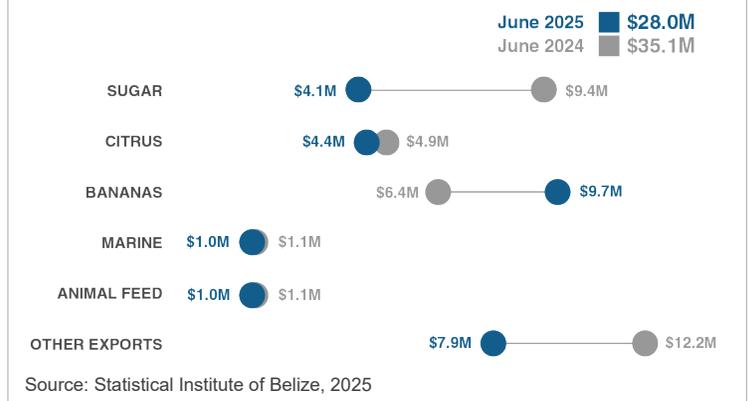
DECREASING CATEGORIES:

For the month of June 2025, the leading contributors to the overall decline in exports were sugar and molasses, with earnings from these two commodities down by a combined almost \$10 million for the month. Sugar sales fell by more than 50 percent compared to the same month last year, from \$9.4 million to \$4.1 million, largely due to variations in the timing of shipments. Revenues from molasses fell by \$4.1 million, from \$5.5 million in June 2024 to \$1.4 million in June 2025, reflecting both reduced export volumes and lower export prices for this product. Additionally, earnings from citrus products fell by \$0.5 million, from \$4.9 million to \$4.4 million, primarily due to decreased sales of orange oil during the month (see Figure 3).

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

On the other hand, bananas were the only major export commodity to record an increase during the month, with revenue rising by \$3.3 million, from \$6.4 million to \$9.7 million. Additionally, sales of red kidney beans were up by \$0.5 million, from \$0.3 million in June 2024 to \$0.8 million in June 2025 (see Figure 3).

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



MAJOR DESTINATIONS:

Earnings from the United States of America declined by more than two-thirds for the month, falling from \$9.6 million in June 2024 to \$3 million in June 2025, mainly due to reduced molasses sales to that country. A drop in sugar exports contributed to a decrease in revenues from the CARICOM region, from \$11.1 million to \$8.4 million. Additionally, reduced purchases of lobster meat led to a decline in earnings from countries grouped together as 'Other,' which fell from \$0.8 million in June of last year to \$0.2 million in June of this year.

In contrast, earnings from Mexico were up by \$1.3 million, from \$1.2 million to \$2.5 million, as a result of higher cattle exports. Meanwhile, a rise in banana sales to the 'Other European Union' market contributed to an increase in revenues from that region, from \$3.7 million in June 2024 to \$4.3 million in June 2025 (see Figure 4).

FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE YEAR:

Merchandise exports for the period January to June 2025 totaled \$189.7 million, down 5.5 percent or \$11.1 million from the same period last year, when imports were valued at \$200.8 million.

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Sugar exports continued to decline during the first six months of this year, falling by \$11.7 million, from \$64.1 million in 2024 to \$52.4 million in 2025. This decrease was the combined result of lower export volumes, weaker prices, and the variations in the timing of shipments. Revenue from molasses, also impacted by lower market prices, saw a significant drop of \$8 million, from \$15.8 million to \$7.9 million. Exports of animal feed declined from \$8.3 million in 2024 to \$5.9 million in 2025, while reduced shipments of alcoholic beverages contributed to a \$2.9 million decrease in the 'Other' exports category, from \$48.1 million to \$45.2 million.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Notwithstanding the overall decline in exports, several key commodities recorded strong gains. Citrus exports grew notably, from \$12.7 million in the first six months of last year to \$17.8 million in the first six months of this year, largely driven by higher shipments of orange concentrate. Banana exports generated \$42.5 million in revenue during the first half of 2025, a \$4.8 million increase over the same period in 2024. Earnings from marine products rose by \$3.9 million, from \$12.4 million to \$16.3 million, due to stronger sales of lobster tails and conch. In addition, exports of red kidney beans increased by \$3 million, from \$3.7 million during the months of January to June 2024 to \$6.8 million during the same period in 2025.

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

