



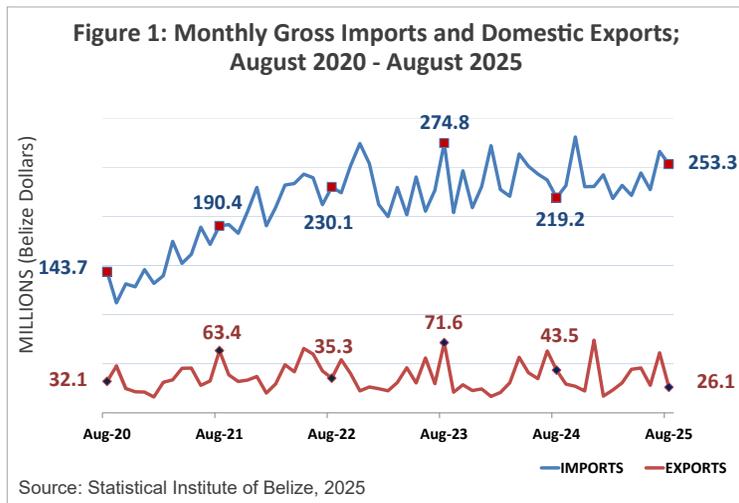
ET EXTERNAL TRADE

STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF BELIZE

IMPORTS UP 15.5%, DOMESTIC EXPORTS DOWN 40.3% IN JULY 2025

IMPORTS

August 2025: Belize's total merchandise imports for the month of August 2025 were valued at \$253.3 million. This was an increase of 15.5 percent or \$34.1 million from August 2024, when imports were valued at \$219.2 million (see Figure 1).



INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Imports rose across several major commodity categories during the month, with the largest increases seen in the 'Commercial Free Zone', 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants', and 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' categories. Conversely, reductions were noted in 'Other Manufactures' and 'Food and Live Animals' (see Figure 2).

Commercial Free Zone

Merchandise imports destined for the 'Commercial Free Zone' nearly doubled in August 2025, reaching \$50.4 million during the month, compared to \$26 million in August 2024. This increase was primarily driven by higher purchases of cigarettes, tennis shoes, and jerseys.

Mineral Fuels and Lubricants

The 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants' category increased by \$7.3 million, from \$25.3 million to \$32.6 million, largely attributed to greater imports of diesel and kerosene fuels.

Machinery and Transport Equipment

Imports of 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' rose by \$3.2 million during the month, from \$53.4 million in August 2024 to \$56.7 million in August 2025, due to the increased purchases of four-cylinder vehicles, crushing and screening equipment, and powered industrial trucks.

Chemical Products

The value of imported 'Chemical Products' went up by \$2.3 million, from \$22.9 million to \$25.2 million, on account of greater purchases of fertilizers.

Crude Material

The 'Crude Materials' category increased by \$1.9 million, from \$2.7 million in August of last year to \$4.6 million in August of this year, largely due to higher imports of treated pine lumber.

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Other Manufactures

On the other hand, reduced purchases of plastic crates and printed books resulted in a \$1.6 million drop in the 'Other Manufactures' category, from \$17.8 million in August 2024 to \$16.1 million in August 2025.

Food and Live Animals

'Food and Live Animals' declined by \$1.4 million, from \$29.2 million to \$27.8 million, mainly due to a decrease in the importation of orange concentrate.

Oils & Fats

Similarly, the 'Oils & Fats' category was down by \$1.4 million, from \$3.6 million in August 2024 to \$2.2 million in August 2025, reflecting a reduction in cooking oil imports.

Manufactured Goods

'Manufactured Goods' declined by \$1.3 million during the month, from \$31.8 million to \$30.5 million, as imports of glass bottles and construction and structural materials were lower in August 2025 than in August of the previous year.

FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THE YEAR:

Merchandise imports for the first eight months of the year, January to August 2025, amounted to \$1.906 billion, representing a 1.5 percent or \$29.5 million decrease from \$1.935 billion recorded during the same period in 2024.

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Mineral Fuels and Lubricants

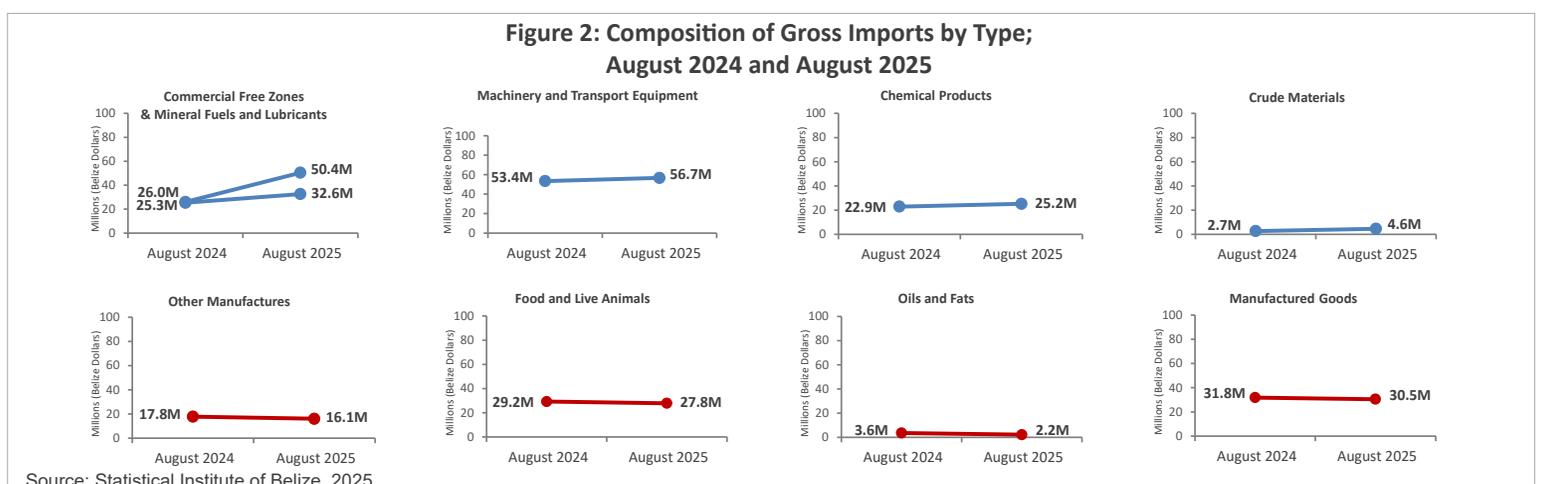
The most significant decrease during this period was seen in the 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants' category, which dropped sharply by \$36.4 million, from \$301.5 million in 2024 to \$265.1 million in 2025. This was largely the result of smaller quantities of diesel and premium fuels being imported, coupled with lower world market prices across all major fuel types.

Machinery and Transport Equipment

Imports of 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' fell by \$36.2 million, from \$488.8 million to \$452.6 million. This was due to the fact that, while several large, one-off purchases such as an industrial generator and a gas turbine were recorded in 2024, there were no similar items imported during the first eight months of 2025.

Oils & Fats

The 'Oils & Fats' category was down by \$4 million, from \$26.1 million to \$22.2 million, owing mainly to a decline in imports of cooking oils during the period.



Designated Processing Areas

Imports into the 'Designated Processing Areas' contracted by \$3.7 million, from \$23.5 million in 2024 to \$19.8 million in 2025, the result of reduced purchases of glass jars.

Other Manufactures

'Other Manufactures' saw a year-to-date decrease of \$1.5 million, from \$146.7 million in 2024 to \$145.2 million in 2025, attributed to reduced importation of metal furniture, plastic crates, and prefabricated steel buildings.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Commercial Free Zone

Goods meant for the 'Commercial Free Zone' were up by a considerable \$16.7 million, from \$220.7 million in 2025 to \$237.4 million in 2024, as the country purchased more cigarettes, jerseys, and tennis shoes during the eight-month period.

Manufactured Goods

Purchases of 'Manufactured Goods' went up by \$16.7 million, from \$255.4 million to \$272.1 million, due to a rise in the importation of galvanized steel coils, metal cylinders, and building cement.

Food and Live Animals

As a result of heightened imports of biscuits, orange concentrate, and coffee, the 'Food and Live Animals' category rose by \$9.2 million, from \$222.9 million during the first eight months of 2024 to \$232 million during the same period in 2025.

Chemical Products

The 'Chemical Products' category increased by \$5.8 million during the first eight months of the year, from \$178.5 million in 2024 to \$184.3 million in 2025, driven by greater purchases of fertilizers.

Crude Material

The 'Crude Materials' category was up by \$3.6 million, from \$33.7 million to \$37.3 million, largely due to higher imports of treated pine lumber and used clothing.

Beverages and Tobacco

Imports of 'Beverages and Tobacco' grew slightly by \$0.6 million, from \$35 million to \$35.6 million, mainly due to increased purchases of beers, cigarettes and wines.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS

August 2025: Total domestic exports for the month of August 2025 amounted to \$26.1 million, down by 40.3 percent or \$17.7 million when compared to exports for August 2024, which were valued at \$43.8 million (see Figure 1).

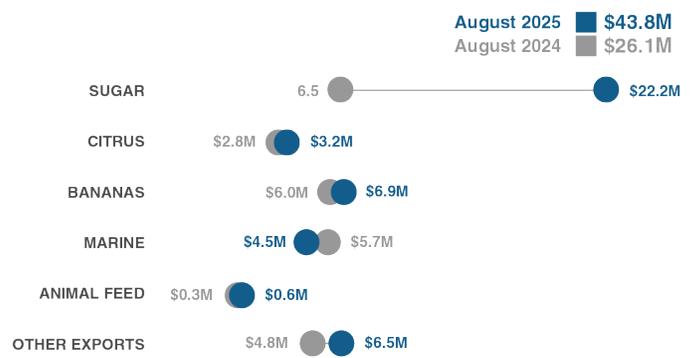
DECREASING CATEGORIES:

The overall decline in exports for the month was primarily the result of a sharp reduction in sugar revenues, when compared to August of last year. Earnings from this commodity contracted by \$15.8 million, from \$22.2 million in August 2024 to \$6.5 million in August 2025, largely attributed to variations in the timing of shipments from one year to the next and reduced export volumes. Additionally, exports of alcoholic beverages and sawn wood both declined by approximately \$1.2 million during the month. Banana exports were also down, falling by \$0.9 million from \$6.9 million to \$6 million, while citrus exports recorded a \$0.4 million decrease, from \$3.2 million in August 2024 to \$2.8 million in August 2025 (see Figure 3).

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

The only major commodity to record a notable increase in export earnings was marine products. Revenue from this category rose by \$1.3 million, from \$4.5 million in August of last year to \$5.7 million in August of this year, mainly due to a rise in sales of lobster meat (see Figure 3).

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



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2025

MAJOR DESTINATIONS:

The fall in sugar exports during the month was reflected in reduced earnings from the United Kingdom, which fell by \$19.2 million, from \$24.5 million in August 2024 to \$5.3 million in August 2025. Export revenues from the United States of America declined by \$2.5 million, from \$7.3 million to \$4.8 million, as sales of alcoholic beverages and sawn wood were also down. On the other hand, earnings from countries classified as 'Other' increased by \$2 million, from \$0.2 million to \$2.2 million, reflecting the growth in marine product exports. Additionally, both the Other European Union and CARICOM recorded a \$0.9 million increase in export revenues, due to increased sugar shipments to those regions (see Figure 4).

FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THE YEAR:

Merchandise exports for the period January to August 2025 totaled \$277 million, down 10 percent or \$30.9 million from the first eight months of last year, when exports were valued at \$307.9 million.

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Sugar was the main contributor to the overall decline in export earnings for the period, falling sharply by \$23.8 million, from \$118.4 million in 2024 to \$94.6 million in 2025, primarily the result of lower export prices. Molasses exports were down by \$11.5 million, from \$21.3 million to \$9.9 million, also due to weaker prices. Animal feed exports decreased from \$9.9 million in 2024 to \$6.7 million in 2025, while revenues from alcoholic beverages dropped from \$6.1 million to \$0.3 million. Additionally, sawn wood and pepper sauce exports declined by \$1.2 million and \$1 million, respectively, over the first eight months of 2025 when compared to the same period in 2024.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Notwithstanding the overall decrease, several other export commodities recorded higher revenues for the period. Marine exports increased by \$6.8 million, from \$21.8 million in 2024 to \$28.6 million in 2025, due to stronger sales of lobster and conch, while red kidney bean exports nearly doubled, from \$3.9 million to \$7.8 million. Banana exports generated \$56.3 million in revenue during the first eight months of 2025, a \$3 million increase over the same period in 2024. Additionally, citrus sales rose from \$23.2 million in 2024 to \$24.1 million 2025, reflecting higher exported volumes of orange oil and orange concentrate.

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



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2025