



ET EXTERNAL TRADE

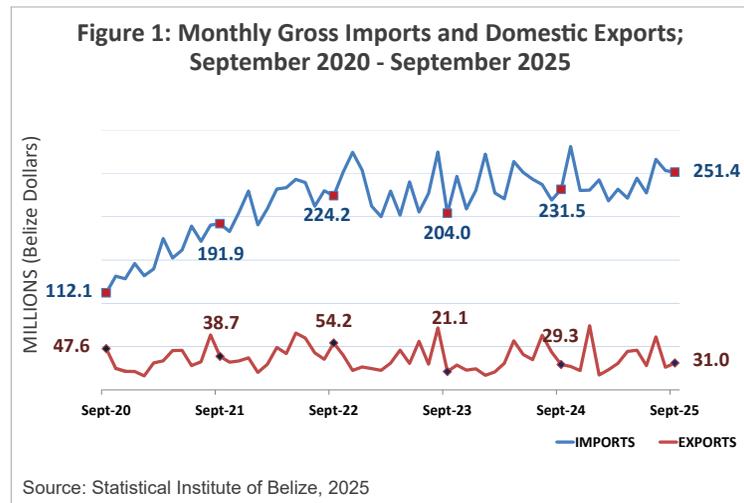
STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF BELIZE

IMPORTS UP 8.6%, DOMESTIC EXPORTS UP 4.7% IN SEPTEMBER 2025

IMPORTS

September 2025: Belize's total merchandise imports for the month of September 2025 were valued at \$251.4 million. This was an increase of 8.6 percent or \$19.9 million from September 2024, when imports were valued at \$231.5 million (see Figure 1).

The 'Oils & Fats' category increased by \$0.5 million, from \$2.4 million in September 2024 to \$3 million in September 2025, driven by a rise in imports of cooking oils.



DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Other Manufactures

Imports of goods classified as 'Other Manufactures' decreased by \$7.3 million during the month, from \$24.4 million in September 2024 to \$17 million in September 2025, reflecting reduced purchases of items such as measuring equipment.

Crude Materials

The 'Crude Materials' category went down by \$1.8 million, from \$6.3 million to \$4.5 million, largely due to lower imports of power poles.

Commercial Free Zone

Imports meant for the 'Commercial Free Zone' were down by \$1.8 million, from \$32.6 million in September 2024 to \$30.8 million in September 2025, as the country bought fewer tennis shoes and T-shirts during the month.

Beverages and Tobacco

The 'Beverages and Tobacco' category decreased by \$1.1 million, from \$6.4 million to \$5.3 million, due to reduced imports of beer.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Several commodity categories contributed to the overall rise in merchandise imports, with the most significant increase seen in 'Machinery and Transport Equipment', while 'Other Manufactures' recorded the largest decrease for the month (see Figure 2).

Machinery and Transport Equipment

Imports of 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' increased considerably by \$21.7 million, from \$58.2 million in September 2024 to \$79.9 million in September 2025, the result of higher purchases of aircrafts, electronic equipment and phone parts for the month.

Food and Live Animals

'Food and Live Animals' rose by \$4.7 million, from \$19.9 million to \$24.6 million, mainly due to a rise in the importation of evaporated milk, baby formula and cereal, and frozen French fries.

Mineral Fuels and Lubricants

The 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants' category rose by \$3.6 million, from \$22.2 million in September of last year to \$25.8 million in September of this year, largely attributed to higher imports of regular and diesel fuels, coupled with increased imports of liquified petroleum gas at higher prices.

Manufactured Goods

Purchases of 'Manufactured Goods' went up by \$2.1 million, from \$34 million to \$36.2 million, on account of heightened imports of corrugated steel rods and steel structural components.

FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THE YEAR:

Merchandise imports for the first nine months of the year, January to September 2025, amounted to \$2.157 billion. This represented a 0.4 percent or \$9.6 million decrease from \$2.167 billion recorded during the same period last year.

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Mineral Fuels and Lubricants

The 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants' category recorded a \$32.8 million decrease, from \$323.7 million in September of last year to \$290.9 million in September of this year. This was largely attributed to smaller quantities of regular, kerosene, and premium fuels being imported, coupled with lower world market prices across all major types of fuel.

Machinery and Transport Equipment

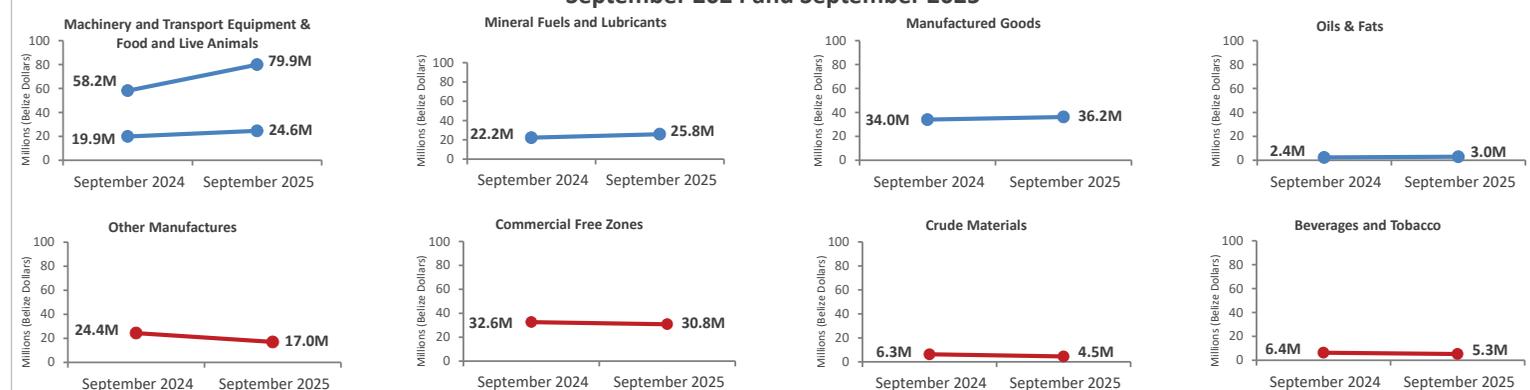
The category of Machinery & Transport Equipment saw a notable decline of \$14.6 million for the period, from \$547.0 million in 2024 to \$532.5 million in 2025. This was due to the fact that, while there were substantial imports of high-value items during the first nine months of 2024, including an industrial generator and a gas turbine, there were considerably less of these types of purchases during the first nine months of 2025.

Other Manufactures

Reduced purchases of measuring equipment, metal furniture, and prefabricated metal structures led to a \$8.8 million decline in the 'Other Manufactures' category, from \$171.1 million in 2024 to \$162.3 million in 2025.

Oils & Fats

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



Designated Processing Areas

Imports into the ‘Designated Processing Areas’ contracted by \$4.1 million, from \$26.7 million in 2024 to \$22.6 million in 2025, the result of reduced purchases of glass jars.

Oils & Fats

The ‘Oils & Fats’ category was down by \$3.4 million, from \$28.6 million to \$25.2 million, owing mainly to a decline in imports of cooking oils.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Manufactured Goods

Purchases of ‘Manufactured Goods’ went up by \$18.8 million during the period, from \$289.4 million in 2024 to \$308.2 million in 2025, on account of heightened imports of galvanized steel coils, metal cylinders, and corrugated steel rods.

Commercial Free Zone

Imports into the ‘Commercial Free Zone’ increased by \$14.9 million, from \$253.4 million to \$268.3 million, due mainly to higher imports of cigarettes.

Food and Live Animals

As a result of heightened imports of various grocery products, the ‘Food and Live Animals’ category rose by \$13.8 million, from \$242.8 million during the first nine months of 2024 to \$256.6 million during the same period in 2025.

Chemical Products

‘Chemical Products’ increased by \$5.3 million, from \$200 million in 2024 to \$205.4 million in 2025, driven by greater purchases of fertilizers.

Crude Materials

The ‘Crude Materials’ category was up by \$1.7 million, from \$40 million to \$41.7 million, largely due to higher imports of treated pine lumber and used clothing.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS

September 2025: Total domestic exports for September 2025 amounted to \$31.0 million, an increase of 4.7 percent or \$1.4 million when compared to exports for September 2024, which were valued at \$29.6 million (see Figure 1).

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Improved sales of marine products and cattle were the primary contributors to the overall rise in exports for the month. Earnings from marine products rose by \$1.4 million from \$2.7 million in September 2024 to \$4.1 million in September 2025, reflecting higher exports of lobster products. Similarly, revenues from cattle increased during the month, from \$1.1 million in September of last year to \$2.4 million in September of this year (see Figure 3).

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

On the other hand, sugar exports fell by \$2.3 million, from \$6 million in September 2024 to \$3.8 million in September 2025, owing to variations in the timing of shipments from one year to the next coupled with reduced export volumes. Earnings from bananas were also down, decreasing by \$0.7 million, from \$10 million to \$9.3 million, the result of reduced exported quantities when compared to September of last year (see Figure 3).

MAJOR DESTINATIONS:

Export revenues from the United Kingdom declined by \$2 million during the month, from \$8.4 million in September 2024 to \$6.4 million in September 2025, as sales of both sugar and bananas to this region were down. Earnings from the United States of America fell by a notable \$1.3 million, from \$4 million to \$2.7 million, reflecting the fact that there were no exports of orange oil and alcoholic beverages to this country combined with a reduction in exports of sawn wood. In contrast, while there were sales of lobster meat and alcoholic beverages to countries classified as the

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



‘Other European Union’ recorded for the month of September 2025, there were no such exports during the same period last year. As a result, earnings from this region increased from \$4.3 million to \$6.2 million. Improved cattle exports to Mexico led to a \$1.5 million rise in revenues from this country, from \$1.3 million in September of last year to \$2.7 million in September of this year. Additionally, exports to CARICOM recorded a \$0.6 million increase, due to higher orange concentrate shipments to this region (see Figure 4).

FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THE YEAR:

Merchandise exports for the period January to September 2025 totaled \$308 million, down 8.7 percent or \$29.5 million from the first nine months of last year, when exports were valued at \$337.4 million.

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

For the first nine months of 2025, sugar recorded the largest decline in export earnings when compared to the same period in 2024, falling by \$26.1 million from \$124.4 million to \$98.3 million, primarily due to lower export prices for this commodity. Revenues from molasses were also significantly reduced due to weaker market prices, dropping by \$11.5 million from \$21.4 million in 2024 to \$9.9 million in 2025, while exports of animal feed declined from \$10.6 million to \$7.5 million. Additionally, reduced shipments of alcoholic beverages, pepper sauces, and sawn wood all contributed to a \$0.6 million decrease in the ‘Other’ exports category, which fell from \$67.6 million in 2024 to \$67.0 million in 2025.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Despite the overall decline in exports, several commodities had notable gains during the nine-month period. Marine exports recorded the largest growth, rising by \$8.2 million from \$24.5 million in 2024 to \$32.7 million in 2025, driven mainly by increased shipments of lobster products and conch. Earnings from red kidney beans went up by \$3.7 million, from \$4.3 million to \$8 million, while banana exports rose by \$2.3 million, from \$66.3 million to \$68.6 million, during the first nine months of the year. Sales from citrus products were also up, from \$27.5 million in 2024 to \$28.2 million in 2025, reflecting higher exported volumes of orange oil and orange concentrate. Additionally, within the ‘Other Exports’ category, revenues from cattle and crude soybean oil grew by \$2.7 million and \$2.3 million, respectively.

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

